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*Basil Champneys*

BASIL CHAMPNEYS, B.A. Cantab.  
Royal Gold Medallist 1912

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# JOURNAL

OF

## THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS

Seventy-seventh Session — 1911–1912.

THE OPENING ADDRESS. Delivered by the President, Mr. LEONARD STOKES, at the First General Meeting, Monday, 6th November 1911.

SINCE I had the honour of addressing you last year we have passed through all the glories of a Coronation, and long may our beloved Patron George V. live to wear the crown, placed upon his head amidst so much rejoicing, and surrounded by so much pomp and splendour! Such an occasion naturally gives great opportunities to the architect and decorator, and I think we may congratulate ourselves upon the fine results achieved in many cases. It is, no doubt, to be regretted that more use was not made of our services; and that, when they were called in, our schemes were not more completely carried out. Nevertheless, the best results along the great processional route, and elsewhere, were produced undoubtedly—as might have been expected—by our noble selves and not by the commercial firms too often in evidence. It would be invidious to mention individual cases, but I should like to place it on record that the most effective, pleasing, and characteristic of the many great efforts to adorn our streets and buildings were those produced by architects. The only case of misplaced architectural genius that I noticed was the annexe to Westminster Abbey, erected "in the Gothic style" at large expense. Surely the culminating point of the great procession along an otherwise gaily decorated route should have been something better than a mere plaster sham?—supposed, no doubt, to be in harmony with the Abbey, but really a very poor compliment to it. One would have thought a fine marquee in gold and gorgeous colours surrounded by Venetian masts carrying flags, banners, and pennants much more suitable to the occasion than an impertinent imitation Gothic building.

Closely bound up with this same subject is the unfortunate *impasse* connected with the completion of the great processional road through St. James's Park. This road is in itself a fine thing, but how it came about that it has no proper opening into Trafalgar Square is quite incomprehensible, and, I fear, is another illustration of the hopeless manner in which our public improvements are invariably mismanaged. In this case a processional road starts from a palace, and leaves off, if you please, with a flourish of trumpets behind a row of houses which practically block its further progress. And when the houses have been dodged, further progress is effectually barred by an underground convenience! I should have thought that the possibility of getting properly and effectively into Trafalgar Square would have been the first thing to consider by those responsible for the scheme, instead of the last, and it now looks, I

fear, practically impossible ever to make a really good finish towards the Square without spending a further huge sum of money, which might have been avoided if the scheme had been properly thought out from the first, by all three of the large public bodies really interested in the scheme, instead of by one alone, which one went to work apparently without any regard to the other two until the last moment, when, alas, it was too late. Architects are unfortunately too often forced, by the near-sighted policy of their employers, into designing incomplete schemes of this sort, and get all the blame for so doing, whereas they of course can only do as they are bid, on the land at their disposal.

This brings us once more face to face with the fact that there really should be one authority responsible for the whole of London, and not several as at present. London with its seven millions of people is as important and probably as difficult to govern as many a European country; and instead of its City Corporation, its London County Council, and its two dozen or so of Borough Councils, with the Office of Works and the Woods and Forests thrown in, one would have thought that at least one Minister of the Crown—aided perhaps by a committee of experts—would have found work enough very profitably to engage his time, in looking after London, and seeing that its affairs were properly managed.

Mr. Waterhouse last session read us a most interesting paper on this subject, but I fear his suggestion of a Chief Architect acting with the architect from each Borough Council would probably cause friction and confusion, and I would much prefer to take, say, H.M. First Commissioner of Works, and—after divesting him of many of the duties he now performs—make him responsible for the proper domestic government of London. He should, of course, have a good deal of power, and some knowledge and taste. There are, I assure you, grave reasons for some change even from an architectural standpoint; take, for example, our street improvements. Most of us can remember when Piccadilly Circus was improved—into a hopeless muddle—and it is now proposed again to alter it, and make it very much what some of us in this Institute suggested at the time! But this, of course, now can only be done at a very much greater cost. Shaftesbury Avenue and Charing Cross Road are each wide thoroughfares, but both hopelessly laid out from a town-planning point of view. Kingsway is quite out of scale with its neighbourhood, and has, as I told you once before, two ends at one end, and no proper end at all at the other! The alterations at the Marble Arch have perhaps relieved the traffic but spilt the appearance of the place, and the slice of Green Park that was thrown into the road by Hyde Park Corner has done no good whatever—though I believe it was done to please the police—and the ordinary rules of the road are not in force now at this spot, which will lead before long, I feel sure, to some horrible accident.

If we go a little further back still, what a great opportunity was missed when the land behind the Albert Hall was dealt with! This is now covered largely by public buildings, and yet none of them look well placed, neither do they tell as a group, as might have been the case had the land been properly laid out, as it certainly would have been in any other country but ours. This all shows that such work should not be left to amateur Committees or Corporations, driven this way and that, first by one consideration and then by another, but should be in the hands, as I have suggested, of, say, a Minister of the Crown, who should advise, control, and direct the various authorities now responsible for the government of London, and see that they worked together, and for the good of London as a whole, and that their various schemes and plans formed part of a comprehensive whole, arranged with due regard to the future.

Surely some general scheme for the improvement and development of London in the future should be at once got out, and might be taken in hand by the suggested Minister? In Rome we were recently shown a plan which is to be carried out during the next twenty years, and all the property so required has been scheduled and the price fixed, and any improvements on it can only be made at the owner's risk, knowing that it may be wanted at any time during



the next twenty years. We, however, do not appear to realise the importance of a comprehensive scheme, and the only people who do know, to some extent, that the public really likes well laid out and well designed buildings are those who run Exhibitions such as the White City. When will our Corporations learn the same lesson, and realise the fact that there is money in it too?

Take a concrete example which has been exercising some of us a good deal lately, viz., the Corporation of London Bridges Bill. This Bill was promoted by the Corporation of London and has now become an Act of Parliament, and provides for rebuilding Southwark Bridge, and for building a new bridge to be called St. Paul's Bridge close to it. Now we all know that the traffic in the City is already about as congested as it well can be, so what it will be like when fresh streams of traffic are created flowing to and from these two great new bridges, heaven only knows! It would seem a wiser policy to try rather to coax traffic away from the heart of the City instead of into it, particularly as the enormous cost of land tends very much to prevent improvements there being carried out on any very comprehensive scale. But the City has money to spend on bridges, so spend it it must, and in the City precincts, too, quite regardless of whether it might not be far better to go to work either higher up or even lower down the river. A Minister of the Crown might help us here.

One last word on St. Paul's Bridge. This Institute has for years been agitating, as you know, for proper architectural consideration for this bridge from the outset, and the Corporation turned a deaf ear to us. Parliament, however, came to our help and at the eleventh hour three well-known architects were called in to advise the Corporation. This was what we had been working for all along, and I think we should congratulate ourselves on having got what we asked for in the end. That some of us may have been disappointed at the form the advice took is not the point. The lay-out received architectural consideration before the Corporation got its Bill; and now we can only devoutly hope that if both bridges are gone on with, the Corporation will take such steps as will insure the designs of these two great bridges being as fine as it is possible to make them.

I should like to explain, however, the reason why we architects seem to be somewhat divided on the subject of St. Paul's Bridge. The reason is that there are two very different ways of looking at the subject; the first may be said to be the aspect *of* the bridge itself, and the second the aspect *from* the bridge. Unfortunately it is not easy to combine the two, and hence some of us took the view that the first thing to consider—apart from the great traffic problem—was what we saw from the bridge, and others what we saw when we looked at the bridge itself. Doctors are allowed to differ, so I must claim for our profession the same privilege. If not too late, however, I should like even now to suggest that Southwark Bridge might be rebuilt first so that we may see what effect it has upon the traffic. This course would have the further advantage of preventing the river and its vast floating traffic from being obstructed by works to two bridges so close together at the same time.

I have already suggested that my proposed new Authority might be the First Commissioner of Works after his present duties had been lightened. These I would lighten by very largely reducing the size and output of the huge architectural mill now running under his control. This mill turns out work just now of the annual value of £1,195,410, which large sum is spent on Palaces, Law Courts, Government Offices, Schools, Labour Exchanges, Museums, Post Offices and Telephone Exchanges, etc., etc., and on the maintenance of similar buildings over which the Office of Works has control.

Now it will be seen that the work turned out is very varied in its nature, but unfortunately very uniform in its architectural character. I want to be strictly fair in what I say, but I honestly think that the bulk of the work produced by the Office of Works is poor from an architectural standpoint. Some of it has been better of late, I admit, but let us take Post

Offices as their particular speciality. These may be seen in our towns all over the land, and are generally, as far as I have seen, pretentious and costly and devoid of those good qualities essential in really fine work, and their other buildings are very much the same.

So much for the quality of the work, now for the cost of production. The architectural staff which produces this work receives £71,849 per annum, or just about  $6\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. on the outlay, for *salaries alone*, without any allowance for rent, rates, taxes, pensions, fees to specialists, cleaning, lighting, heating, porters, messengers, and various other sundries. Five or six years ago the salaries amounted to only about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on the amount expended, which was then about £400,000, or one-third of what it is now! Fifteen or sixteen years ago only about £250,000 was spent per annum, and the cost of architectural administration was only about 2 per cent.! These figures seem to show that the larger the office is, the more expensive it becomes per cent. to administer.

I maintain therefore that, as the work now produced by the Office of Works is not very good and not very cheap, the bulk of it might with advantage be put out to independent architects to be better done at a smaller cost, and so relieve the First Commissioner of Works very considerably. This you will see has the advantage of killing two birds with one stone, for we thus enable the First Commissioner to do work which we want him to do, and we free him from the work which we would much rather he did not do.

You must not think that I have any particular grudge against the Office of Works, or that I am finding fault with the many good friends I have on the architectural staff there, for my remarks are directed against all large public bodies who attempt to do their own architecture. The recent Congress at Rome passed a resolution to the effect that "Architectural works intended for the State, Municipalities, or other public bodies should only be entrusted to qualified architects after competition or otherwise." It will thus be seen that the architects all over the world are in accord, and in order to further prove the case I have looked up the cost—the quality speaks for itself—of the architectural work produced by the Admiralty and the War Office. Both of these authorities run large architectural departments spending in round figures about a million and a half per annum each, the former at a cost of about 7 per cent. and the latter about 10 per cent. in *salaries alone*, and in neither case, of course, including the cost of rent, rates, pensions, cleaning, lighting, heating, etc., which, if added, would probably raise the cost by about another 1 or  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

I should like to have been able to include the London County Council in my list, but I can find no published figures on the subject. I am told, however, on good authority, that the Architectural Department of this body is run very economically at present, greatly to the credit of the very able gentleman at its head. When, however, in the course of time he retires, I venture to predict that no one else will be found with the same capacity for work and power of organisation: consequently confusion will arise, and the cost of production go up to something like that in the three other cases I have quoted. And the more this department undertakes now, the greater will be the fall then. For it stands to reason that one man cannot have time to design all the work produced by a great office of this nature, and if he has not time to do it himself it must be done by others. He is therefore at the mercy of his staff, and if at the mercy of his staff why not at the mercy of the outside architect? In the case of the London County Council, their architect is even called the *Superintending Architect*: his duty should therefore clearly be confined to *superintending* the work, not of a staff, for then it becomes his own work, but of those architects who work in London under his jurisdiction; and this principle applies equally to the architects of the Office of Works, the Admiralty and the War Office, and other large public and municipal offices, for all these gentlemen, if they attempt to design any work themselves, must neglect their staff, and if they leave it to their staff it must be good, bad, or indifferent, according to the staff, for one

man even cannot control a staff, the salaries of which at the Office of Works, for example, amount to something like £1400 per week, or perhaps as much as 99 per cent. of our practising architects pay to their staff during a whole year instead of in one week.

In these days of free trade and buying in the cheapest market, why should public offices be given preferential treatment? If there are a number of professional men of high standing prepared to accept a recognised scale of fees, why should these huge cormorants receive about half as much again as the ordinary rate? Hen-roosts, I know, are in demand just now, and I venture to suggest that, without robbing anyone at all, thousands of pounds might be saved annually from the unnecessary expenditure now involved in running these large architectural mills. The three which I have named, together spend annually in round figures about four and a half millions on building work at an average cost of about  $9\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., or  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. more than the recognised payment for such work. This equals rather over £200,000 a year paid unnecessarily for the privilege of running these departments. It may be contended, however, that these departments are necessary, as there are a number of works like painting park-railings, mending broken windows, etc., that must be looked after; but a staff of surveyors could do this very well without mixing up architecture in the matter at all, and this I imagine is what was intended when the Office of Works was established.

My figures may not of course be quite correct—figures never are—and those who understand them better than I do may be able to put a much better complexion on them. I can only say that I have worked on the official published figures, and these as a rule are carefully and takingly prepared with a view to their being swallowed by the British taxpayer, and I hope I have not much overstated the case.

Again it must be only too obvious that a large Government Office is not a likely place for the production of various kinds of architectural work either well or cheaply, for the originating is generally done by understrappers, and sent up to the higher grades for approval or otherwise—a sort of Class of Design—and I have heard of as many as nine separate designs having been made for one building before such approval was obtained. In other professions does one man profess to be able to specialise in all subjects? Are there not landscape painters, and portrait painters, and some sculptors who work best in low relief and others in the round? Do not some lawyers go in for criminal work and others for the Probate and Divorce? Are there not doctors who cut at our insides and others who cut our throats; and even with us, some architects do church-work and others domestic work; but these Public Offices, as far as I know, claim to be able to do everything from a palace to a prison, and no doubt they can, and equally well too!

I have already referred to the Ninth International Congress recently held at Rome, and to the resolution passed there respecting architectural work intended for the State and Municipal Bodies being entrusted to non-official architects only. A number of other resolutions were also passed, but perhaps the following are the most interesting, viz.:

(1) "That the right to use the title of Architect should be reserved to those who have obtained it as a result of a proper examination passed after an artistic, technical, and scientific education."

(2) "That the title of Architect should be placed in the same rank as the title Master of Arts, Doctor of Medicine, etc."

These two resolutions are particularly interesting to us just now, for, as you know, this question has been before the Institute as long as I can remember, and it may help us to know what other architects think on the same subject. We, as you know, have been working towards these ends for some time past, and as a preliminary step have created a new class of members called Licentiates, nearly two thousand of whom have already joined our ranks. With the object, too, of organising the profession—with the sanction of Parliament—into a

strong, united, disciplined, and protected body, negotiations have been proceeding between this Institute and the Society of Architects, it being felt that two Kings in Brentford were hardly necessary, and that together we should be much more powerful than working independently. A number of meetings were held early in the year, as you are aware, and the general principles and a number of the details were satisfactorily agreed upon. Unfortunately—perhaps through my own fault—we got on rather faster than our legal advisers approved of, and we were brought up by finding that we had perhaps exceeded the powers we possess under our existing Charter and By-laws. This was rather a shock to some of us, but as we had gone so far, we felt that, in justice to ourselves and to the Society of Architects, we could not do otherwise than make good the mistakes made. Your Council has therefore been considering a revised Charter and By-laws which will enable the two bodies to unite under terms I think advantageous to both parties. This Charter and By-laws will, I hope, be very shortly laid before you, and I trust you will pass them, not, of course, without due consideration and discussion, but without forgetting what has already taken place. For many reasons it seems to me obvious that the two Societies should unite, but the reason that will perhaps appeal most to our only too human natures is the fact that by building up and increasing the power and influence of this Institute we are building up and increasing our individual power and influence. For the fact of belonging to a powerful body strengthens each of us, and makes us more confident when dealing with the many difficulties that abound in our multifarious duties.

If this Address should happen to be read in the provinces, I hope those interested in the good of the profession will endeavour to make as many of their confrères as possible join our ranks and so still further help to build up a really powerful and representative body. Another way in which our internal economy might be strengthened would be by a number of our Associates who have been Associates for years becoming Fellows. They are, in a number of cases, highly qualified in every way to become Fellows, and I hope they will consider the advisability of doing so.

It is a matter for congratulation, I think, that an architect has been associated with a sculptor in connection with the King Edward Memorial. The ideal method, no doubt, would be for one man to do the whole thing, but until our sculptors take a little more trouble to ground themselves in architectural matters, the only course I can see that will insure our monuments being satisfactory is to associate an architect with the sculptor: the custom hitherto too prevalent of leaving the sculptor to produce his own so-called architecture, or to get some compliant ghost to do it for him, is most unsatisfactory.

You will be glad to hear that there is now an immediate prospect of something in the nature of a British School being established in Rome, such school to embrace architecture, painting, sculpture, and archaeology. Nothing, however, very definite has been settled, but there are prospects that, aided by private benefactors, helped by the Commissioners of the Exhibition of 1851, and backed up by the Royal Academy, the Royal Society of British Sculptors, and ourselves, a school will be shortly opened in Rome. Scholarships connected with it will be established. I anticipate, by this Institute with funds lately left us under the Jarvis bequest, and I think I am at liberty to say that the Commissioners of the Exhibition of 1851 will probably also give at least one scholarship each year to architecture, painting, and sculpture, so that with students who we hope may be able to attend this school, either privately or encouraged by the universities and schools about the country, a good school should be got together; and in such an appropriate centre for study as Rome, where most of the other nations have schools, we British subjects should be able to offer our students the means of completing their studies at a much higher level than has hitherto been the case. For it must be remembered that if we architects are to hold up our heads with any degree of success

we must have something in them, otherwise the public, which is very quick at finding out impostors, will go back to their old friend the jerry-builder, leaving us to pine in a well deserved obscurity.

#### VOTE OF THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT.

SIR ROBERT HUNTER, K.C.B., Solicitor to the Post Office, Chairman of the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, I rise to perform a very pleasing task, that of proposing a vote of thanks to your President for the very able and humorous Address to which you have just listened. There is one prominent feature of that Address which you can hardly expect me unreservedly to admire at a moment's notice. While I noticed that the suggestion that the Government architectural work should be thrown open was received with very great approval by this meeting, for very obvious reasons, it would scarcely become a humble Civil Servant to rejoice over the discharge from their present offices of a large number of his colleagues. Certainly the President has given some very remarkable figures, which, I should think, are well worthy the notice of the Treasury, though probably that body will be able to give some explanations which might possibly put a different aspect upon those figures. There is one remark I would like to make upon that subject. I believe the great bulk of the work of the Surveyors of the Office of Works consists in supplying post offices. It would ill become me in this assembly to give any opinion upon the merits of the external appearance—the elevations—of our post offices; but I believe no one has yet suggested that the construction is not very sound and good; and I am sure that those buildings are very well adapted for the purposes for which they are designed.

With another of the suggestions of your President's Address, I find myself fully in accord. I am sure we shall be agreed it would be a very valuable thing if some controlling authority could control and supervise the execution of new so-called improvements in London. It always strikes me that the great difference between London and Paris is, that while in London we have many very fine buildings, splendid open spaces, and many other pieces of the town which are well worthy of admiration, there is yet a great absence

of those broad effects which catch the eye at every turn in Paris, and which, certainly to me, give very much pleasure. In London, when we do get a broad effect of any kind, we do not seem able to keep it. There was one part of London which was constructed according to a uniform design: I mean the whole district from St. James's Park and the Duke of York's Monument, including Regent Street and Portland Place, up to Regent's Park and the surrounding houses. That was of one design; and although opinions may differ as to whether it represented a very high style of architecture, still it was harmonious and pleasing. Now, however, it is neither one thing nor the other. The Government Department which, I believe, owns most of the property in Regent Street has allowed the line of buildings to be broken into in a heterogeneous way from point to point, and there is no definite general line of architecture, and nothing which gratifies the eye in that respect. And, as the President has said, the Circus which used to exist at the bottom of Regent Street is now a space which, though it cannot be said to be "void," is certainly "without form." Of course, I can see, as anyone can see, that there are difficulties, in the City of London, in establishing and enforcing adequate control. The enormous commercial growth in London, and the extraordinary value which land in the centre of London attains, of course affords a perpetual incentive to put more buildings on a given site, and to get more money out of the land in that way. And that tendency must, in some measure, run counter to the desire to carry out a uniform harmonious plan. And there is also that intense feeling of individualism which has hitherto characterised this nation, and to which, to a large extent, we owe our present position in the civilised world; this attitude of mind resents any hard and fast control by any one Central Authority. I think much consideration must take place before any London Authority is established for such a control as the President suggested; but that some such control is desirable and wanted we shall all agree



But I think the sovereign remedy for all architectural ills is the growth of public opinion on the subject. Public opinion in favour of anything like architectural beauty on a large scale is a matter of very recent growth. Hitherto, when any design has been discussed, any scheme for laying out any new part of a city, or any question in which considerations of beauty and symmetry come in, the general attitude of the public mind towards them has been that it is very nice to have a pretty building, to have a nicely designed street, but if there is a question of money in the way, if it be a question of costing a little more to do, then all considerations of beauty must vanish, and considerations of finance must rule. I think that, at any rate, some inroad is being made on that feeling. There have been many signs of better things lately; and amongst others, one may allude to the matter which has been spoken of by the President, the recent controversies over St. Paul's Bridge. In that case, at all events, whether the result may be altogether satisfactory or not, we have had this fact, that Parliament has directed opinion to be taken from the æsthetic and artistic point of view, and that has been carefully gone into.

Before I sit down, I venture to congratulate the architects of this country on the growing importance of their profession. It seems to me that of recent years it has been the general tendency for persons to take more interest in getting good houses designed for them, and even good offices, than was the case a short time ago. And not only is there a greater interest in the production of individual good buildings, but you have the whole subject of town planning, which is almost a growth of yesterday, attaining already very large proportions. When you have a Minister of the Crown opening a Town Planning Conference with a most enthusiastic address, and when you have an Act passed expressly with the view to promoting town planning, and when you see on all sides attempts being made to make the conditions of life a little better than we have been accustomed to in recent years, to create garden cities and garden suburbs, I feel sure you must all see that the scope of your profession is widening, and that you have a very great future before you. I have been told by professional friends that there has been comparatively little work amongst architects lately. One is very sorry to hear that, and it may be that there has

been some check to building; but I think that in the near future, the architect will be the right-hand man of every Local Authority, that he will be called in to design not only beautiful houses and buildings but to lay out and to plan every collection of human dwellings of any magnitude, and that he will co-operate with the engineer and with the medical officer of health, not only in securing the health of the community, but in providing cities and towns which will gladden the eye and add to the pleasures of life. Such papers as you have heard to-night—such spirited and suggestive papers—will greatly aid towards the progress of that movement, and I have great pleasure in proposing this vote of thanks to the President.

MR. IRVING K. POND, President of the American Institute of Architects: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, fellow guests and members of the Council,—it was a great honour and pleasure for me, on behalf of the sister Institute and of myself, when I was asked to second the resolution of thanks for the admirable Address which your President has delivered this evening. It has given me so much to think of and so much to talk about, that, were I to follow my own desires, I should keep you here till too late, and it would not become me to outstrip your President. Therefore I shall confine myself to one or two of the main points. It is a pleasure to speak here, where there is community of speech as well as community of interest. We have been speaking in Rome, where we did not know whether we were understood or not, where we were pretty certain we were not understood—where even, if the words might be understood, the thought was very well concealed. Listening to this Address to-night brings in forcibly upon me that we, the mother country, and the child which I represent, have not only community of speech but community of thought and ideal; that the same problems which your President has placed before you to-night confront us also; that in a great many of our larger towns a division of interests and a number of taxing bodies make municipal development almost impossible. However, that is coming to a solution with us, as undoubtedly it will soon with you. The thing which appeals to me strongly in your President's Address bears more directly upon the establishment of the British School in Rome. As in the case of the bridges, there may be two points of view: the looking *at* the bridge, and the looking *from* the bridge. In the case also of the School at Rome

there are two points of view, and there may be a division of opinion among yourselves—I am possibly divided in my own mind—that there is the point of looking *at* the School, and the point of looking *from* the School. What is the School to bring you? It seems to me that you have your own traditions, and I cannot blame you for following them. I do blame my own compatriots, my own confrères, for being hide-bound, for being too closely wrapped up in tradition, for being still virtually in the swaddling-clothes which were wrapped about them as infants. It may be news to you, but we are more bound by tradition in America in our official architecture than you are here. What will Rome give you? You have culture; you do not have to go far to seek culture; you have Oxford and Cambridge, you have the British Museum, you have the National Gallery, you have easy access to the Continent, where you can pursue your travels and your travel studies. You have not far to go for culture. What will the School at Rome bring you? If you go to Rome to study classical traditions, to bring back forms and facts and try to apply them to your modern life, therein you have failed in your School at Rome. If you go to the School at Rome as you would go to the cloister, to allow it to mellow your tradition, the School at Rome has helped you. That is the use of the School in Rome—if you will take the advice of one who knows nothing about it! But the problem has been brought home to us. We also have a School at Rome, which was conceived by a former President of the American Institute of Architects, to which he gave his life and his fortune; and therefore, as a child of the Institute, it does not behove me to criticise it. But my advice to the student who seeks Rome is not to use Rome as a studio, but to use Rome as a ground for the expansion of his ideas. And recently the American School of Classical

Studies has been incorporated with the Academy at Rome. Though this did not meet with the approval of some of the purely artistic geniuses connected therewith, it does meet with the approval of every man of broad culture, because what the student wants to determine in Rome is not that so many buildings were built at such an age, that so many blocks of stone of such a size were used, but rather what was the impelling motive which underlay all that building. And when a man has understood that, and brought back that principle and idea to his home, he has given that much more, and can give that much more to his community. The problems of official architecture affect us quite as they affect you. The American Institute of Architects was the father of a law. Through its persistent effort a law was enacted which, for a number of years, has been in operation, by which the principal work of the Government is given out in competition to the individual architect. Recently that law has been attacked by a new factor in the Government, one which seems to attack it in the interests of economy, so called. They make the figures show very beautifully for the departmental architecture. But we know that where the individual architect gets his 6 per cent. for this work, it is costing the Government, within its own department, something over 7½ per cent. Of course the Government figures do not show that; but that is the fact notwithstanding, and we have documents to demonstrate it. And we are combating now, in our own country, this inroad. This law, which has given and is giving to America a higher type of Government architecture than was produced under the departmental control, makes me hope that our law will not be overturned, and that your desired law may be enacted.

The vote of thanks, being put by Sir Robert Hunter, was carried by acclamation, and the President briefly responded.

## REVIEWS.

## FRENCH RENAISSANCE ARCHITECTURE.

*The Architecture of the Renaissance in France. A History of the Evolution of the Arts of Building, Decoration, and Garden Design under Classical Influence, from 1495 to 1830. By W. H. Ward, M.A., A.R.I.B.A. 2 vols. 8s. Lond. 30s. net. [B. T. Batsford, 94 High Holborn.]*

*It is with some diffidence that I have complied with the request of the Editor of the JOURNAL to furnish him with a notice of this book, since the Author himself insists that I am, in some remote fashion, responsible for its existence, and publicly acknowledges in too generous terms, the occasional advice I have been privileged to offer him. Well, "no man," says Ben Jonson, "is so foolish but may give another good counsel sometimes," and it will be counted to me for righteousness by my fellow students to have aided, in however small a degree, in the accomplishment of such a work. Seven years have passed since Ward and I first discussed the need of a reasoned history of the Architecture of the Renaissance in France, and I persuaded him, modestly dubious of his own fitness, to undertake the task; five years, since my convalescence from a long illness was cheered by the reading of the first pile of manuscript. The author has employed those years in adding to, revising and completing his work, and it now comes to me in a form so different and so complete in comparison with its first, that I find myself able to regard it with a certain critical detachment.*

Although the refined Neo-Classicism of the French schools of architecture has exercised, for some years past, a steadily increasing influence upon the work of British, and especially upon that of Scottish students, it has hitherto been difficult, both for students and professors, to obtain any clear picture of the historical development of French Renaissance architecture, save by individual research for which time and material were not always at their disposal. Such a picture was nevertheless essential to the proper understanding of the subject. The Renaissance work of France consists, not of a succession of styles, but of phases in a stylistic development, forming a national variant of the great artistic revival of which Italy was the birth-place.

The subject to be depicted was of great extent, comprising a period of some three and a half centuries, in which artists were both numerous and prolific; but no one could be better equipped than Mr. Ward for the really tremendous task of analysing and classifying the mass of material—enormous even when typical buildings alone are considered—with which the land of France is sown throughout its length and breadth. His command not only of its language but of that which unlocks the stores of fact amassed by the patient German (and recorded in tomes of inconceivable dulness), and his scholarly

habit of mind, give him a vantage possessed by very few architects in an enterprise which none but an architect might adventure with success.

May I venture here to insist on the importance to every architect of a liberal general education before he begins his technical studies. To put it on the baldest commercial grounds, the time spent by a young man at a university is actually profitable to him, not merely in respect of general scholarship but of his subsequent architectural practice. He may, it is true, at 25 years of age find himself at a disadvantage professionally, when challenged by one of the same age who is three or four years ahead of him in technical training; but at 30 he is already level, and thereafter his wider mental outlook, his better knowledge of comparative literary and historic values, and that flexibility of thought which comes from early intellectual gymnastics, give him a command of his art and its technics which is quite apart from, and can never be attained by, mere experience in practical design.

I take leave to assert that such a book as that before me could have been written only by an architect who had undergone what is generally called a "university training," and the remark applies equally to the brilliant work on the same subject by Mr. Reginald Blomfield which, in date of issue, treads upon the heels of that of Mr. Ward. The two books are singularly alike in the same clarity of their authors' conclusions, while they differ as widely as may be in the handling of their premises.

My own lack of that early mental discipline I have just extolled must be my excuse for this digression! I have ventured to emphasise the basic value of the Humanities because it is strikingly apparent in the construction of the book I am discussing. The merest crib-hunter cannot fail to remark the ordered logic with which the development of classicism—grafted, to adopt Mr. Ward's own figure, upon the exhausted stock of a native style, itself in turn to be revitalised by feeding the graft—is shown proceeding step by step with the march of contemporary history in France; architecture inevitably reflecting in brick and stone the life and morals of its time, as it complies with their demands.

It is no part of my present purpose to attempt a digest of the two volumes, but I would direct the attention of my readers to some of the more important features of the work. First among these I place the very admirably written Preface and Introduction, which should be carefully read by every student. The Introduction is of especial merit and paints in miniature the whole course of the French neo-classic evolution. The general plan of the book is, I think, quite the best possible for the purposes of study and reference. The chapter divisions follow those of the quasi "styles," or periods of evolution, and each opens with a sketch of the general history of the epoch, prefaced





CAEN: HOTEL D'ORVILLE: DOORWAY IN LOGGIA.  
Measured and Drawn by Arthur Stratton.



CHATEAUDUN: STAIR TOWER.  
From a Drawing by G. G. Wornum.

by a table of the reigning sovereigns, their queens,\* and their English contemporaries. The path of the present-day student is indeed made straight for him; "qu'il en profite!"

The chronological plans too, are most useful—e.g. Blois (fig. 48), Fontainebleau in 1610 (fig. 61), Louvre and Tuileries in 1580 (fig. 158), Versailles (fig. 300)—and show the dates and authors of the various constructions, at a glance.

The illustrations generally are, of course, technically excellent—one expects no less of Mr. Batsford—and it is good to find the modern sketches and photographs supplemented by contemporary drawings of "vanished buildings and unexecuted projects." I quote from the Preface: "That this must generally be done by reproducing the drawings of by-gone generations of designers, so variously different from those of our own day, is in itself a gain, since the graphic method of presentation adopted by a du Cerceau or a Marot, a Neuforge or a Fontaine, is one element in his conception of design, and should be taken into consideration in the study and appreciation of the style in which he worked."

It is the privilege of a reviewer to air a grievance however small, and the book runs so smoothly that small irregularities jar the reader. I would plead for a uniform system of nomenclature in future editions. If "François" and "Henri" are to be rendered by their English equivalents of "Francis" and "Henry," why should Louis, Jean, and the rest be left in possession of their own names? Blois and Chambord are described as "castles" in some views, and as "châteaux" in others. The "Luxembourg Palace" is thus Anglicised, while to the Palais Bourbon and the Palais de Justice are given their proper designations. Servandoni, that *soi-disant* "Italian," appears as "Servandony," a form he would certainly have resented! There is, in fact, nothing but a bad tradition to justify the re-baptising of French folk and places by English names. The practice is confusing, in some cases actually misleading; the word "château," for instance, by no means always connotes what is known in England as a "castle"; it would often be more properly translated "hall" or "place."

That I should find no other fault on which to hang a sermon is in itself the best testimony I can give to the great excellence of Mr. Ward's work. The information contained in these two volumes is simply amazing, not only in its amount, but in its carefully sifted quality and consequent importance. I am left in wondering admiration of the author's unwearied research, of his masterly handling of its results, and of that remorseless reticence which

has enabled him to compress them within 528 octavo pages of very readable print, while leaving space for a very liberal allowance of plans and views.

His reward is certain. Such a book will be for future generations as for the present the text-book on the French Renaissance; for though it may be supplemented by others of differing scope, or of more detailed information, it can never be superseded, never out of date.

JOHN W. SIMPSON [F.].

### OLD LONDON HOUSES.

*London Houses from 1660 to 1820. A Consideration of their Architecture and Detail. By A. E. Richardson and C. Lovett Gill. Illustrated by Drawings and Photographs specially taken. 80. Lond. 1911. Price 15s. net. [B. T. Batsford, 94 High Holborn, W.C.]*

The authors, photographer, and publisher are to be congratulated on this concise and handy volume, but turning over the pages from an architectural point of view one feels that there is a lack of measured drawings, and no sections of mouldings are given. It is remarkable how the photographer attempts to supersede these. Façade after façade in exact chronological sequence is given, but there are very few interiors. Exteriors can be seen by the many, but only few are privileged to view what they screen. It is the interiors of the British homes, especially in London, which have the greater charm and individuality.

The authors commence with the date of the Great Fire of London, give the conditions of rebuilding, and then divide the epoch under their review into three periods, which they call the *Early* or *Formative* period, 1666–1720, the *Middle* or *Palladian* period, 1720–1760, and the *Refined* or *Formal Classic* period, 1760–1820. They point out that the periods merged into each other, and that the date limits given show when fresh influences were brought to bear on architectural design.

The planning of the houses is next dealt with. Eight types are given; these appear to have been selected with great care, and show at a glance the progress made in town house planning; but a little more trouble might have been taken in their delineation. In Lindsey House, Colin Campbell shows the minor front staircase on the ground floor going down only; here it has the appearance of both going up and down with a solid newel between the flights; but this must be clearly wrong, as no provision is made for it on the first floor. In fig. 6, Dr. Heberden's house, the main staircase has somehow got omitted on the first floor, and no openings are even shown from the staircase hall except one leading to the service staircase; neither is it clear how this hall derives its light—most probably by a lantern overhead. By the plans of the second and third floors the main staircase hall appears to be floored over and no light

\* If these tables could have been supplemented by the names of the various royal mistresses, whose influence on the building schemes of their times was often greater than that of the queens, it would have enhanced their value and interest. I presume that considerations of space rendered this impracticable!—J. W. S.

admitted to the centre of the house. If these omissions were on the plans from which the illustrations were taken, an inspection of the house should have been made to rectify them. Again, fig. 9, Buckingham House, the words "Ground Floor" should be transposed with "First Floor," and no doorway is shown in the semi-circular end of the hall connecting it with the entrance vestibule.

There can be no doubt that the authors bring weighty arguments to bear in assigning to the brothers Adam a pre-eminent place in the designing of the town house, and they claim that after a lapse of more than a century their houses can be converted into comfortable modern residences.

After giving only a short sketch of the interior of the town house they arrive at the main portion of the volume; this consists of four to a dozen lines of well chosen and highly condensed information and description of each of the ninety-eight photographs. The subjects brought under discussion must have entailed a considerable task in elimination, and then the photographer was confronted with the difficulty of choosing the best view to give prominence to the features desired by the authors. This has been done in nearly every case in a satisfactory manner, but exception might be taken to plate 41, which shows a rather repelling exterior of a house designed by Isaac Ware. They state that "the entrance hall is architecturally arranged with a screen of stone columns separating it from the staircase." Surely an illustration showing this would have been more interesting.

One of the best façades is on plate 66, which shows an excellent view of No. 20 St. James's Square. It is a fine example of design by Robert Adam. He has succeeded in making his order and fenestration one harmonious whole, clearly showing that this architect was a master in design. Not so Lindsey House (unfortunately not illustrated, being of too early a date, 1640), where the pilasters are subordinate to the fenestration, and at Nos. 57-8 Lincoln's Inn Fields (plate 34), where the fenestration is quite subordinate to the order.

Again, the view of the east side of Fitzroy Square, plate 73, demonstrates what can be done when an able architect is commissioned to design a long façade.

Finally, the authors mention the localities occupied by different classes of society and lucidly point out how much fine town planning was carried out in London by the great property-owners up to and during the Regency. These squares and crescents might be studied to great advantage by those who are interested in endeavouring to revive town planning and healthy homes.

Enough has been said to show that this book should be in the library of all architects and those interested in the art who have a reverence for the past and have courage to re-adapt fine old and trustworthy motives to modern requirements.

A. E. HENDERSON, F.S.A.

## BUILDING IN LONDON.

*Building in London: A Treatise on the Law and Practice affecting the Erection and Maintenance of Buildings in the Metropolis.* By Horace Cubitt, A.R.I.B.A., P.A.S.I. With special chapters dealing respectively with *The Cost of Building Work in and around London*, by H. I. Leaning, F.S.I., and *The Valuation, Rating, and Management of London Property*, by Sidney A. Smith, F.S.I. 1s. 8s. Lond. 1911. Price 31s. 6d. net. [Constable & Co., Ltd., 10 Orange Street, Leicester Square, W.C.]

It would be with much pleasure but some diffidence that the ordinary practitioner would read and review this book. On the one hand, we welcome a standard work, but, on the other, none but the expert can do adequate justice to Mr. Cubitt's three years' study and the fruits of his many years of exceptional experience. After reading through so complex a work, one wonders, on reflection, whether the laws of the Medes and Persians, which altered not, were but another phase of the unchanging East; for certainly our own ordinances are not only in a state of flux, but, if not being amended by our legislators from time to time, are pretty sure of being re-read in the process of illumination they receive at the Courts.

The law as regards the liability of the architect having been read of late to his disadvantage, he is alive to the advent of a work such as that before us to help him over his difficulties. The path of the person building in London is, as the author himself remarks, truly beset with difficulties, and when he realises that he is dealing with forty Acts, a number of by-laws and regulations, and, further, when he gets into touch with the L.C.C., the Superintending Architect, the District Surveyor, the Borough Surveyor, the Tribunal of Appeal, not to mention adjoining owners and their satellites, the said person will doubtless cordially agree with Mr. Cubitt.

The work is primarily written for the Londoner, though it has two special chapters, the one on the cost of building work, and the other on valuation, development, and rating, which are of wider interest; this 800-page volume, however, will stand or fall by whatever success it achieves in elucidating those same forty Acts and their accompanying by-laws and regulations. One certainly feels that Mr. Cubitt has made a splendid bid for success.

The work is arranged in six divisions following on broad lines those of the London Building Act of 1894. The author's excerpts are, however, collated in view of all the Acts and by-laws or legal decisions bearing upon any detail with which at the moment he may be particularly concerned, whether it be new streets, lines of building frontage, or some point in construction as to a bay-window or a party wall. Though of course finality will never be reached, the work is brought up to date. Even during the three years of its preparation two Capital Acts and three L.C.C. General Powers Acts (those variegated and hardy annuals) have become law.

We have always had with us the difficulty of expressing the many phases of the building trades into terms of the law, even probably in Roman times, but it is to the present day that we look for handbooks which shall restate the terms into those of the layman. For London, we have, amongst others, Mr. Dicksee's valuable work on the Building Acts, where they are entire but annotated, the handbook of the trained man. In the work under review Mr. Cubitt gives us a book for the unlearned inquirer treading with doubtful steps and hoping to find the spirit of both Act and by-law put into layman's English.

The author, from his service with both a provincial Council and the L.C.C., is led almost unconsciously to give us the view of the "insider," upon the administrative bodies of which he was a one-time unit; hence, it is gratifying to read, in view of the heartburning sometimes caused in the past by the decisions of the Tribunal of Appeal, that "the appellant may be sure his case will receive the fullest consideration by men who are themselves engaged in the control and direction of practical building work." Again, in the excellent summary which follows the useful chapter on the law as regards fire escape,—both, by the way, full of practical hints and observations,—the author drily remarks that "the counsel of perfection" is not always capable of being followed, and that one may hear of "demands that sometimes go beyond the limits of what can be reasonably required." His many years' experience, however, enables him to point out repeatedly facts not generally appreciated by applicants for "consents." In addition he supplies a chapter on how to apply to the Council, with much pertinent advice as to what to show and what to omit, in order to win that good opinion which is the first step towards gaining the desired consent. Few realise the very extended powers of the Council in the above, and here our author is at his best; his knowledge enables him repeatedly to point out facts not generally appreciated by applicants, and even to offer the restraining hand where, as would seem to be sometimes the case, the owner is not aware of his rights and would sign them away with a full consent. We are reminded that the right to build within the prescribed distance carries none but the ordinary limitation as to height; also that it is not necessary to apply for permission to erect balconies, gangways, staircases and such works, under ordinary circumstances and being "fire resisting." An important point, too, is as regards the owner's rights to the soil when, as is so frequently the case, he dedicates the surface to the public use and is thereon refused pavement-lights or cellar-flaps, and, no doubt, feels that undue advantage is being taken of him in the negotiations; here, as in many other cases, Mr. Cubitt recommends legal aid. As regards the Council, however, their latent powers of "consenting" themselves as it were almost out of the Act, in questions as to old buildings, is

often overlooked by architects, and the author does well to remind us of Sections 207 and 211 of the '94 Act. The well-known thoroughness of the Council's staff comes to light in the chapter on special buildings, and it is interesting to note the conscientious way in which detail is attacked; the officers, we learn, are called upon "to investigate the strength of every single joint and connection," which they like to "check and re-check." Remembering the methods of the customs officer when similarly placed, we are only left in respectful admiration; however, the added sense of security for the architect will be doubtless fully appreciated.

Turning to the work itself, the type is bold and well selected, and though the author apologises for not using marginal headings, his alternative, viz. running them into the text in bolder type, is one of the pleasing features of the book. A more striking feature, however, is the use of the margin for continual cross-reference to the "letter" of the Acts which come at the end of the work in chronological order. This is of the greatest value in following the author in his rendering as a layman of the "spirit" of the Acts.

Of the divisions and chapters, all are good, but praise is especially due for chapter 6, which deals with the important items of frontage lines, open space about, and height of, buildings, &c., and is a welcome exposition of what to many is a difficult subject; also for chapter 2, with its valuable summary of the principal Acts, and the chapters on dangerous structures and rights of building and adjoining owners, both especially useful to the young practitioner, who is apt to feel that here the "greybeards" have the advantage of him. All the chapters are followed by a list of Law Cases relating to the points dealt with in them, and throughout occurs the author's remarkable gift of analytical arrangement, especially in the tables dealing with "open space," "diagonal line," &c. Such diagrams as appear are simple and clear—one could, by the way, wish for more of them. In one of the chapters a good summary and analysis is given of the many regulations *re* fire-places and flues, with the suggestion that all draughtsmen should commit them to memory; and to those building in the City one can recommend the special chapter devoted to the requirements there met with.

In perusing the book, one is struck with the care with which all the points, small or otherwise, are dealt with and cross-referenced, and the value of many of the author's deductions cannot fail to be noted; his conclusion, for instance, that concrete walls are not referred to in the third rule of the first schedule is interesting and valuable; being so, such walls need be no greater in thickness than those of brick. We can, too, regret with him the significant omissions from the Acts of definitions for "building," "highway," "occu-

pied," &c., and the varying one for "owner". As regards the former, however, one would have expected Mr. Cubitt to give the definition originally in the '05 Act but subsequently struck out; and in reference to "occupied" it is somewhat a surprise to be told by him in discussing the scope of Section 7 of the '05 Act that a church or assembly hall may still be exempt from the provision of means of escape, because not "occupied" by twenty persons! The definition of warehouse as against domestic building well illustrates the difficulties of our building law; but here our author leaves us where he found us, battling with its paradoxes. His sense of detachment is, however, always good, and the inconclusive points are discussed impartially. The pity is that there should still be so many of them, and that we are so frequently recommended to have recourse to legal advice. It is pleasant to find that in the case of one of his queries, "What is a single building?" and its associated party-wall question, we have, since Mr. Cubitt's book went to press, the important finding of Justices Phillimore and Banks upholding on appeal a County Court judgment of last March, and this settles at all events that a party wall below can become an external wall over.

The above only bears out the uncertainty previously referred to, and one can understand if Mr. Cubitt is sometimes a little bitter, as when he dubs a part of Section 73 (shop fronts) as being absurd. Lawyers in their wisdom omit the commas, with sometimes unfortunate results, and this doubtless accounts for the apparent discrepancy.

Turning for the moment to another part of the book, great stress is laid on "exemptions" as being of particular importance, and also upon the vexed question of fees to district surveyors in regard to this matter; as such works stand, the district surveyors' survey is practically an official certificate that they are exempt. His conception seems still to exist, especially amongst builders, as to these exempted or partially exempted buildings. It is pleasing, by the way, to notice the friendly reference to the District Surveyors, and the opinion that they are sufficiently reasonable in not asking more than the ordinary careful architect is wont to do.

Space will not permit of reference to the author's remarks as to by-laws and the dormant powers of the L.C.C. under Section 164 of the '09 and Section 22 and 23 of the '08 Acts. With regard to the latter, since he has not withheld his work from the press for the overdue by-laws on reinforced concrete, one may expect further delay ere they are published. The foregoing will duly appear, we may suppose, in Mr. Cubitt's second edition, say in two volumes, of a book destined to expand, and then he need not break the "oneness" of his work by an interpolated chapter on bending moments and radii of gyration; this would not

jar upon us in a second volume, where, too, might appear excerpts from the leading "Cases," as also the two excellent divisions contributed, the one on the Cost of Building Work by Mr. H. I. Leaning, F.S.I., and the other on Valuation, &c., by Mr. S. A. Smith, F.S.I.

The volume is apparently very free from error; but the Index, which is good, one would like to see amplified and cross lettered; random examples occur in "Open Shed" under S only, though "Engine Shed" is under both E and S. Separation of buildings is found as "Certain buildings, separation of," under B. R.I.B.A. Notice Forms have no reference given to page 225; "definition of structure," page 541, should read, "definition of building." An index is after all the reader's first friend and cannot be too full.

The marginal figures also on page 239 should read 478 and not 477; and a reference to page 119 is suggested for page 223, twelve lines up.

If one may suppose a second edition, one would suggest, amongst the salient points left over for more extended reference, the law of architect, client, and builder, and the law as regards ancient lights; and such an edition might well contain, in two double pages, maps of London, one north and one south, giving the borough boundaries, the surveyors' districts, and the adjoining urban District Councils (whose by-laws the while might well be included in the volume).

In conclusion one sees many legal curios, and on perusal of the work queries cross the mind upon which further comment would be acceptable; probably the author feels the same, but to give only one, viz. page 105, the builder of a staging within a building is not required to give notice, but on page 147 a licence would appear to be required and notice given, and Section 84 seems to bear this out also.

If we are apt to judge building law in London harshly, and to feel ourselves over-"by-lawed," we must remember that the provinces have little but the common law to which in difficulty recourse must be had, with, as Mr. Cubitt remarks, all its uncertainty and expense.

E. ALEX<sup>r</sup>. YOUNG [J.].

#### CALCULATION OF COLUMNS.

*Calculation of Columns: A Practical Application of the Theory.* By Theodor Nielsen. 8s. Lond. 1911. Price 4s. 6d. net. [E. & F. N. Spon, Ltd., 57 Haymarket.]

As stated in the preface, the object of this small book is "to show the results of the researches of Professor Ostensfeld, of Copenhagen, the application of which affords rapid means of arriving at a reliable cross section of a mild steel column, and in general the strength of any column."

The results of these researches are given at the end of the book in a series of tables showing the breaking load per unit area on centrally loaded



columns corresponding to various values of " $\frac{l}{r}$ " (free length divided by radius of gyration) for mild steel, wrought iron, cast iron and European pine, as worked out by the author from Professor Ostenfeld's formulæ. The values given in these tables compare fairly closely with those in general use, and being the results of a very recent series of exhaustive tests may safely be taken as accurate for ordinary work. It should be noted that the author recommends that those values corresponding to " $\frac{l}{r}$ " above 125 are beyond what is desirable in practice. For factors of safety for ordinary work he gives 4 for steel and wrought iron, 8 to 10 for cast iron, and 5 to 8 for wood.

At the beginning of the book is given a short table for deducing the free length of a column from the actual length according to various fixings of the ends. A simple and ready method of obtaining the sectional area of a column when the length and load are known is given from Professor Ostenfeld's formula

$$A = A_1 + \frac{zl^2}{30,000}$$

where A is the sectional area required

$$A_1 = \frac{\text{load}}{\text{working stress}}$$

$l$  = free length in inches

and  $z$  is a constant varying according to the kind of section used. A table of various values for " $z$ " is given for all the types of sections in general use.

Tables are also to be found in the book for determining the radii of gyration of hollow round columns, and of various German steel sections, which apparently are not given in the makers' catalogues as is the case in England.

The book appears very free from errors; a noticeable one, however, occurs in the last line of page 1, " $l = 2 L$ ."

DIGBY L. SOLOMON, B.Sc. [A.].

#### REINFORCED CONCRETE.

*The Practical Design of Reinforced Concrete Beams and Columns.* By W. Noble Twelvetrees. 8s. 1911. Price 6s. (Whittaker & Co. London and New York.)

In this work, a subject much to the fore has been treated almost exhaustively for purposes of the practical designer or the student. More than one-half of the volume under notice is devoted to beams of reinforced concrete. The first chapter deals with bending moments and stresses, the four ensuing chapters with horizontal, and the sixth chapter with web reinforcement. The remaining departments of the subject are columns and struts, column bases, floor calculation, permissible working stresses in concrete and steel, and, in a final chapter, materials and construction. An Ap-

pendix follows containing a note on the standardisation of formulæ, tables of notation, and sundry "labour-saving diagrams" useful in designing beams and columns.

Both formulæ and graphic methods are employed for ascertaining moments and stresses, and the work comprises numerous diagrams which serve to elucidate the explanations in the letterpress. The information conveyed in the concluding chapter on "Materials and Construction" is evidently the outcome of much practical experience, and should prove invaluable.

In dealing with the subject of permissible working stresses, Mr. Twelvetrees has some critical observations, *inter alia*, upon the conclusions reached by the Committee of this Institute and embodied in their original Report. He points out that in concrete of 1:2:4 proportions the Report apparently provided for no variation of working stress for compressive strengths varying between 2,400 lb. and 3,000 lb. per square inch. It may be remarked that the Committee's Second Report, issued since Mr. Twelvetrees' criticism, is more definite in providing that such concrete shall show a strength of 1,800 lb. at 28 days or 2,400 lb. at 90 days. Another point touched upon by the author is the lower working stress (500 lb.) provided by the Committee for concrete in columns than for concrete in beams (600 lb.); and this apparent anomaly has also been dealt with in the Second Report.

GEORGE H. BLAGROVE, *Licentiate*.

#### Inigo Jones's Sketch-book.

On the recommendation of the Literature Standing Committee the Council have purchased for the Library a facsimile copy of Inigo Jones's Sketch-book, 1614. This is one of a hundred copies which the sixth Duke of Devonshire, in the first half of last century, had reproduced by lithography from the original in his possession. On the flyleaf is inscribed, "Mr. Burton is requested by the Duke of Devonshire to accept this facsimile of Inigo Jones's Sketch-book, April 1836." The Mr. Burton referred to was Decimus Burton, and beneath the above is written: "Given, August 1881, to his dear old friend Professor T. L. Donaldson by Dec<sup>s</sup> Burton."

#### Books Received.

English Ironwork of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries. By J. Starkie Gardner. With 88 colotype plates from photographs chiefly by Horace Dan, Architect, and upwards of 150 other illustrations. 4s. Lond. 1911. Price £2 2s. net. B. T. Batsford, 94 High Holborn.

International Fine Arts Exhibition, Rome (1911). British Section Catalogue. Issued by the Royal Commission. Board of Trade Exhibitions Branch, 30 Broadway, S.W.

Reinforced Concrete Construction: Elementary Course. By M. T. Cantell (*Licentiate R.I.B.A.*). 65 illustrations. 8s. Lond. 1911. Price 4s. 6d. net. E. & F. N. Spon, Ltd., 57 Haymarket.

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY, ASHWELL, HERTS.:  
ITS STRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT.\*

By WALTER MILLARD [A.].



St. Mary's, Ashwell.

Photo by Latchmore

**M**Y Paper is an attempt to account for, or at least to suggest an explanation of, the structural development of this building; it is not a detailed description of the interesting features and objects that the building comprises.

This edifice stands to-day a typical example of the English parish church arrested in its development by about the end of the fourteenth century. The local building effort—and this must have been a great effort for the time—which produced the body of the structure expended itself mainly within the fourteenth century, leaving for subsequent

execution only the two porches, the enlargement of certain window-openings and some screen-work, &c., besides possibly the finish of the tower. I speak of its being an instance of arrested development, because, as we see, the nave has its aisles, but the chancel has thrown out no aisles of its own, and so, of course, has never needed to expand upwards into a clerestory, like the nave; whilst the nave aisles have retained their eastern windows, in the absence of chancel aisles or chapels. In fact, this church has not been one to go through the complete course of development that ended in producing the fully-expanded plan and design of our English parish church, such—for instance—as we find in St. Mary's, Hitchin, or St. Margaret's,

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\* Read at the church before the East Herts Archaeological Society, Thursday, 31st August 1911.

Westminster, and in many another example, with side aisles produced right out to the extreme length so as to finish in a line with the east wall of the chancel.

This work at Ashwell was an extensive building-undertaking, begun, as its design and detail shows, during the first half of the fourteenth century, *i.e.* before the Black Death of 1348-9, and then, after a check of perhaps ten years or so, carried through to completion in the course of the remaining half of the century. That is, the whole of the building-work that we view from the inside of the church—with quite trifling exceptions, and leaving out of account the modern main roofs—was conceived and executed within the course of the fourteenth century; and, moreover, it was done in consecutive sections. To trace the order in which these various sections of the work followed one another is the main object of my inquiry. Though built piecemeal, undoubtedly—as was usual in our old churches—the building as a whole appears to be the embodiment of one complete building-scheme pretty clearly thought out from its commencement; and, as I read this product of fourteenth-century building-enterprise, I conjecture it to be the carrying-out of a bold project to substitute a new church edifice for an earlier and doubtless smaller one then standing on this site: a project that would necessarily have to be carried out piecemeal, so that the daily use of their parish church was not prevented. It is true that no portion of such supposed earlier edifice can be pointed to with certainty as remaining in position above floor-level; so that its very existence may only be inferred, whilst its shape and size can be but guessed at. Yet, its influence as an edifice once standing on this site remains, I venture to believe, still affecting the disposition and shaping of the existing building. But at any rate, actual remains of an earlier structure are visible in plenty, out of their original position, worked into the walling of this church as "old material" by the fourteenth-century masons; as is revealed by an examination of the outer wall-faces and certain of the inner wall-faces of the building. Such examination shows that, after laying an outer base-course composed largely of stone coffins and their covers (disturbed no doubt by the necessary excavation for an enlarged church), they carried up the walling in random-work composed partly of flints interspersed in places with wrought stones of various shapes and sizes, occasionally showing the worked profile of a moulding. These wrought stones can only be the remnants of a former edifice; and they are not likely to have been transported here from elsewhere. To imagine Ashwell without a parish church until the fourteenth century would be absurd; to imagine an earlier parish church not on this site seems scarcely less than absurd.

The establishment of the existence of an earlier church on this site is a point of no slight import in

the investigation of the growth of the present structure. It offers a clue by which perhaps some features in this edifice may be accounted for, features that call for explanation.

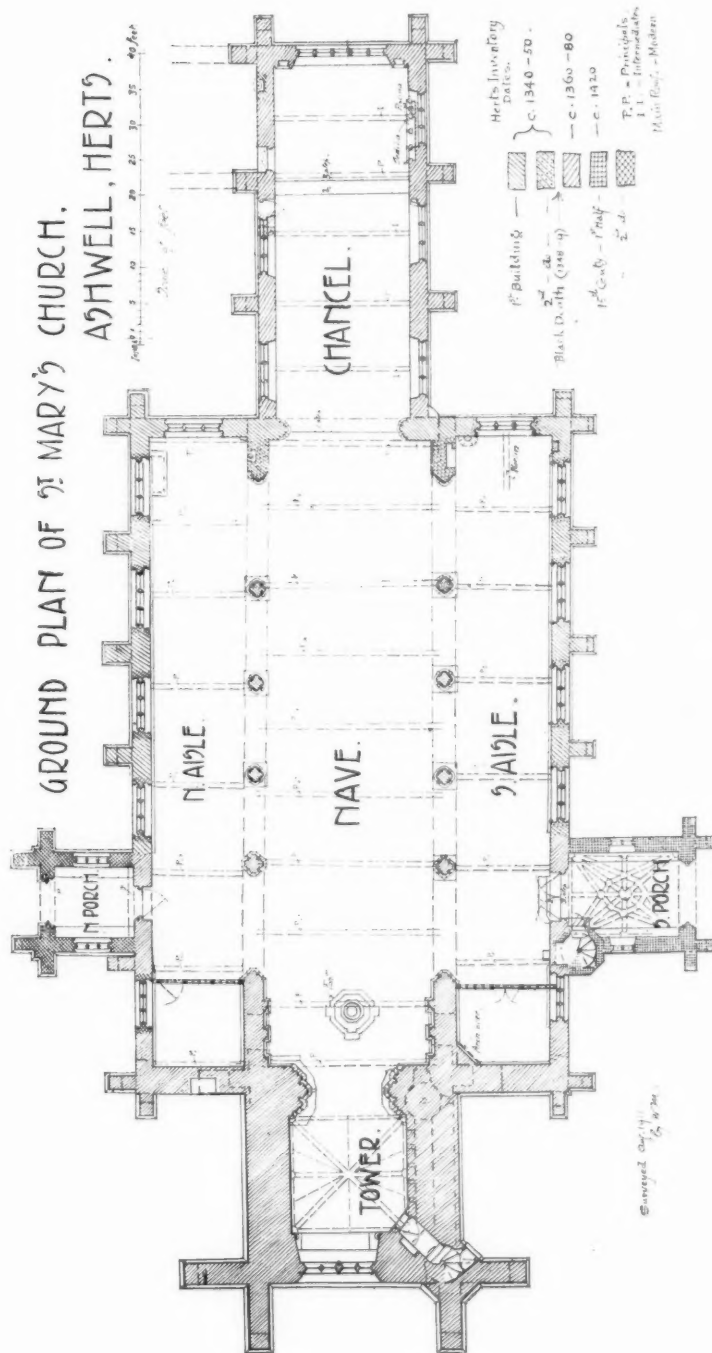
The fourteenth-century building, or rather rebuilding—as I prefer to call it—seems to have been begun by the erection of the three middle bays of the nave arcades; *i.e.* two piers and three arches on each side, north and south. The fact that the arch, cap, and base mouldings of these bays are identical on both north and south side points to the probability of these two pieces of arcade having been built simultaneously—the same templates being used—and not built as were those at Hitchin, for example, first one side and then the other, with consequent variation in detail. The mouldings of these bays of arcade at Ashwell indicate a date for their execution in the first half rather than the second half of the fourteenth century; which implies that the scheme of rebuilding was devised and its first section put into execution before the Black Death (1348-9). From what we are told of the effects of this visitation on the population of the country we can hardly suppose that the execution of the building-scheme, which was then in hand, could have proceeded all through the middle of the century without interruption. It is known that industry generally was dislocated for the time being, and by the date that building-work was resumed in many a case it is evident that new men came to it, with new ideas. The marvel is that here at Ashwell they were able to resume work so soon as they appear to have done and to have then carried it on to so successful a completion by about the end of the century, and on so extensive a scale. An important point to decide, so far as can be decided, in the story of this church is, what work in it can be assigned to a date before the Black Death and what dates from after the plague?

Seeing that the details of the chancel arch agree with those of these three first-built bays of the nave we may safely assign this arch also to their building-time, which the Royal Commission's Inventory of Herts\* Monuments puts at from 1340-50. But, intervening between these two contemporary pieces of work, there comes one wider bay, with its pier and respond, on either side of the nave, of rather later date, as is clearly indicated by the altered detail of pier, cap, and base and a slight change in the arch moulds. These details here are a modified rendering of the design in the earlier bays; they look like the handiwork of another mason, who whilst distrusting his power to design something quite his own yet failed to adapt successfully the design of his predecessor. Why the building of this easternmost bay of the nave came to be deferred, and what actually intervened for a time between the earlier nave arches and the chancel

\* Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England): an Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Hertfordshire. A.D. MCM.X.



GROUND PLAN OF ST MARY'S CHURCH,  
ASHWELL HERTS.



arch contemporary with them, is a material point in the decipherment of this building. Something, which has now vanished, seems to have remained standing here after the chancel arch was built. As to the actual date of this deferred bay it is not easy to be positive, but I should put it before rather than after the pestilence. The Inventory takes no note of its difference in detail from the adjoining bay.

The westernmost bay of the nave arcades, again wider and later in date than the three middle bays, and differing from them more distinctly than does the easternmost bay in detail, is less difficult to account for—as we shall see. It goes with the tower. The aisles, for the sake of which the arcades were designed, must have had their walls (including buttresses) set out along with the arcade corresponding to them; and for a certain height at least, if not for the full height, the two would be carried up together in all probability. Above the arcade the clerestory shows itself as contemporary work, for the two middle bays on the north side. The remaining clerestory follows the later arcade. The position of the chancel arch, square with the nave but out of centre with it, has to be accounted for. The chancel itself, a complete work of some quarter of a century later than the arch, according to the Royal Commission's Inventory, has been built to

centre with this arch, though with its axis not quite at right angles to it. Yet one must suppose that the arch was designed, in its own day of building, to open into a then existing chancel; so here I think we have warrant for inferring an earlier

chancel, and a chancel at that day intended to be retained. With it, of course, we infer an earlier chancel arch belonging to it, of which this fourteenth century one was surely an enlargement.

An earlier nave, centering with the chancel arch and with this supposed earlier chancel, would be narrower than the present nave, if the N.E. respond pier represents the position of its north wall, as seems most likely. If there be anything of the earlier church still in position above ground I should expect to find a portion of it in the heart of this N.E. pier. According to this theory the required widening of the nave would have been obtained on the south side, thus accounting for the non-centering of the chancel arch. An upright joint on the exterior apparently marks the S.E. angle of the narrower nave.

What I have to offer as a working-hypothesis, to explain the sequence of the various parts as they came into the existing arrangement of the building, is something as follows. Supposing an earlier and smaller church, with its chancel, on this site, in which it would be imperative to maintain the daily



ST. MARY'S, ASHWELL: WEST TOWER AND LYCH GATE.

Reproduced from the Royal Commission's *Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Hertfordshire*, by permission of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.

service; when a time came to enlarge the accommodation of their parish church they might still hope to get along with the chancel they had, small though it might be, if only the rest of the building were expanded. But to go straightway and pull down their entire nave, in order to rebuild it, would be most inconvenient; whereas to keep up a portion of this nave towards the east, thrown open to the chancel by the building of a new arch as wide as could be got, might make a serviceable church to get on with. At the very same time the rebuilding of the nave further to the west, for so far as that nave extended in that direction, could be proceeded with, and with this would go its aisles, the eastern end-walls of which indeed would be needed for abutting the thrust of the new chancel arch. Presently when this area had been all enclosed and roofed, the still remaining eastern portion of the old nave, viz. that portion of it now occupied by the easternmost bay, could be dealt with by having the existing piers and arches built into its side walls; and then the new high nave roof could be continued all over this remaining piece of early nave with its low roof, before this latter need be removed. Thus a new nave of four bays, with aisles, would have now become attached to the earlier chancel.

This is how I would try to account in outline for the work done down to the middle of the fourteenth century. Later on, in the second half of the century, the parish treated themselves, from 1360-80, as the Royal Commission's Inventory tells us, to a rebuilt chancel, almost certainly an extended one, in respect of length at least. To the north of its easternmost bay there lay what the Inventory calls—a vestry, since destroyed. It seems to have been regarded hitherto as a chantry chapel. A piscina in what was the southern wall-face of this building appears to have been moved from elsewhere and inserted here, its detail marking it as of earlier date than the chancel.

In this same half-century was carried through a great work of extension at the western end of the church, comprising a noble tower, which evidently was begun clear of the then-existing nave, to avoid disturbance in the church, and only joined-up to this latter when the work had risen above roof-level. The junction was effected by the westernmost arched bay, before alluded to. With this last would go its corresponding aisle-extensions,

produced westwards as we see, and including the north and south doors to the church. A west door may have served till then. Important as these eastward and westward extensions of the church were as pieces of building-work, each in its way, they are nevertheless, in a sense, really of minor consequence in the history of the building compared with certain of the earlier modifications in the structure that I have been endeavouring to make out the course of. For, these great extensions, at the extremities, did not affect any subsequent development of this church-fabric. They formed the concluding chapters of the story, and were not turning-points in it; no sequel hangs to them.

In the course of my inquiry into the history of this building I may seem to have laid almost more stress upon the unseen than upon the visible work that we have to examine; but, as the builders of this visible work must inevitably have been influenced and controlled in their design and setting-out by the already existing work on the site, now no longer to be seen in position, so we, in endeavouring to read and account for their design and arrangement, in trying to understand the structure, shall do well to bear in mind and to conjecture so far as we can, the conditions under which they must have contrived and done their work. What was here must have governed to some extent what we find here now, probably to a great extent. Hence my concern about the vanished work of the earlier days in the building's story.

I cannot conclude without one word more on the subject of the stately bell-tower. This masterpiece of design and construction deserves a notice all to itself, based on close, critical examination of the work. Its planning and whole conception proclaim it to be the work of no ordinary mason, and the work of no beginner. In the study of our old churches I like, when possible, to find parallel examples that can fairly be compared together and thus used to throw light upon one another. As a parallel to this tower I would select the tower of Baldock Church, a smaller though still important work, and one some years earlier in date. It is but a fancy—to imagine the designer of the Baldock tower proceeding, later in life, when his powers had matured, to work out more fully at Ashwell his ideas as to what a church bell-tower should be.



9 CONDUIT STREET, LONDON, W., 11th Nov. 1911.

## CHRONICLE.

### The Opening of the Session.

There was a good muster of Members and Licentiates at the Opening Meeting of the Session on the 6th inst. The Meeting was held in the West Gallery, which proved a convenient and effective substitute for the Great Gallery, seating easily over 160 persons, and being noticeably good acoustically. Past Presidents were represented in the persons of Sir Wm. Emerson, Sir Ernest George, R.A., and Mr. Thomas E. Colcutt. Among the Council guests were Mr. Irving Pond, President of the American Institute of Architects; Mr. Edward White, Chairman of the London County Council; Sir Laurence Gomme, Clerk of the London County Council; Sir Robert Hunter, Chairman of the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest; Mr. Bertram Mackennal, R.A.; Mr. Evelyn Shaw, Secretary of the Commissioners of the Exhibition of 1851; Mr. Lewis Hind, the well-known art critic, and Mr. A. B. Black, Vice-President of the South Australian Institute of Architects. The President's Address was frequently and warmly applauded; and since, the meeting has been largely and appreciatively quoted in the London and Provincial Press.

### Preservation of Churches from Fire.

The following circular letter, drawn up under the direction of the Council, has been addressed from the Institute to all Archdeacons in the Provinces of Canterbury and York and to the Church Authorities in Scotland and Ireland:—

4th November 1911.

SIR,—The frequent occurrence of disastrous fires by which churches and other buildings of historic and architectural interest have been entirely destroyed or seriously damaged has led the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects to give special consideration to the means to be taken to preserve such buildings from the risk of similar disaster.

The Council urge upon all authorities who have charge of ancient buildings the necessity of every

system of heating apparatus with the flues connected therewith being periodically examined under competent advice, and any necessary steps at once taken to put them in substantial repair. They also wish to impress upon authorities the necessity of all new installations, either of heating apparatus or of electric light, being carried out under thoroughly competent supervision, and of a certificate being obtained that the work is properly completed, and that the safety of the building has been adequately provided for.

The Council also suggest that all fire insurance policies should be re-considered and brought up to date and made to cover specifically stained glass, organs, fittings, and furniture. In many cases it has been found, when fires have occurred resulting in serious damage to buildings, that the amount of the insurance has been entirely inadequate for proper re-instatement.—Faithfully yours,

IAN MACALISTER, *Secretary R.I.B.A.*

### The Control of Advertisement Hoardings.

The devices employed by advertisers for disfiguring the natural beauties of our countryside and the amenities of public thoroughfares are ever on the increase, and the Council of the Institute have had for some time under consideration the question of the control of these objectionable forms of advertising. As Mr. Richardson Evans observed in his admirable Paper, "The Restraint of Advertising," read at the Town Planning Conference last year, "What is in question is the limitation of the right of individuals to play for their own purposes and at their own discretion upon the eyes of their fellows." Some months ago, the Council were approached by the New Malden District Council and asked to support a movement having for its object the amendment of the Advertisements Regulation Act 1907 so as to extend the powers under the Act to all Local Authorities. The Malden Council, moved to action by the complaints of ratepayers against the increasing erections of advertisement hoardings, to the great detriment of property in the neighbourhood, had passed the following comprehensive resolution:—

That in view of the ever-increasing number of public hoardings and similar structures used for the purpose of advertising, this Council desires to call the attention of the Local Government Board to the disadvantages and limitations of the Advertisements Regulation Act, 1907, as follows:—

- (1) The disfigurement of towns and districts in populous and residential centres;
- (2) Decrease in rateable value where property prejudiced;
- (3) The reduction in rentals of good class residential property;
- (4) The disadvantages of the limitations under Section 2 of the said Act, setting aside the objects and purposes of a town planning scheme under the Housing, Town Planning &c. Act, 1909;

(5) The system adopted by certain owners of reserving and applying strips of land adjoining streets, footpaths, railway embankments, and gable ends of property where exposed to public view, much to the detriment of the area;

and therefore do consider it desirable that steps be taken to secure an amendment of the Advertisements Regulation Act 1907, with due regard to the following:—

(a) For the powers under the Act being extended to all local authorities, irrespective of population;

(b) That the Act should be so amended as to closely follow the objects and purposes of the Housing, Town Planning &c. Act, 1909, which provides that local authorities shall allocate "special districts for special purposes." (N.B.—This would mean that advertisement hoardings would be more strictly regulated, restricted, or prevented in certain places in any town or district where such erections would affect injuriously not only the amenities of a public park or pleasure promenade, or even the landscape, but the amenities of the entire district);

(c) That in the interest of public safety and protection, no public hoarding should be erected on any land fronting any street in a town or district, except at a distance from the said street equal to the height thereof.

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the National Urban District Councils Association, Thames Councils Association, and to all local authorities throughout the country, with a view to representations being made to the Local Government Board hereon.

The Malden Council forwarded this resolution to the Local Government Board, with the request that, if the recommendations were considered practicable, the Board would determine whether structures of this character could be regulated, restricted, or prevented under the Town Planning Act of 1909. If not, they urged that a strong attempt should be made to secure powers; otherwise, town planning would be very seriously prejudiced. The Board, in reply, gave it as their opinion that the matter could not be dealt with by a scheme under the Town Planning Act, and that any suggestion for the amendment of the Advertisements Regulation Act 1907 should be addressed to the Home Secretary.

Mr. Johnson, Clerk to the Malden Council, in publishing this correspondence,\* points out the hardship upon Local Authorities in promoting a scheme under the Town Planning Act, that they should be powerless to arrest this advertisement abuse, which must be subject in all respects to the defective machinery provided by the Advertisements Regulation Act.

The Council have addressed a letter to the Malden Council assuring them that the Institute is in entire accord with their action and with the scope of their resolution. The matter has been referred to the Art Standing Committee, and the Malden Council have been asked to communicate for their information the proposals they advance for amending or securing larger powers under the Advertisements Regulation Act 1907.

\* See *Municipal Journal*, 29th April 1911.

#### Schemes under the Town Planning Act.

Under the instructions of the President of the Local Government Board a "White Paper" is now being prepared for presentation to Parliament showing the extent to which municipal authorities have taken advantage of the Act, or are considering the advisability of doing so. It is said that the majority of municipal councils, with a rapidly growing population to provide for, are waiting to see the results of the action taken by the holder minority before taking any steps themselves. If it be represented to the Local Government Board that in any locality the Act should be and is not being adopted, the Board may, after a public inquiry, order the local authority to submit a scheme. The Board, however, disclaims any intention to use, or even threaten to use, this power at the present early stage. It is understood that the Board desires to help with advice those who are moving for the adoption of the Act, and to apply any needed stimulus in the friendliest manner. This seems to be realised by the Local Authorities, and it is stated that representatives of about a hundred of them have visited Whitehall and consulted the Board's officials on the subject. *The Times* has published the following particulars of schemes in course of formulation throughout the country:—

#### THE OUTSKIRTS OF LONDON.

At Ruislip the local authority has obtained the Local Government Board's leave to submit a scheme for the planning of 5,906 acres. At Hayes action is likely to be taken in the near future. Greenford has asked Harrow to co-operate in a scheme, and Harrow is about to discuss a scheme of its own. Wembley has decided to take immediate steps. In Willesden the council and owners are negotiating schemes for all the vacant land left. In Finchley a scheme is being prepared for a district served by both the Great North Road and the Regent's Park Road. In Hendon preliminary plans have been got out. The Wood Green Council has taken up the question, and it is thought a scheme may be prepared for 500 acres. Walthamstow has a committee about to report.

The Southgate Urban District Council intends to ask authority for a scheme, dealing with the whole district of 3,597 acres. The council has already acquired 63 acres for a park, and surrounding it is an estate of 240 acres which will be laid out on town-planning lines as agreed with the owners as part of the purchase consideration. The Middlesex County Council has decided to contribute £5,625 towards the purchase by the Southgate District Council of 90 acres of land at Winchmore Hill for the purpose of a public park.

Hanwell has just applied for leave to prepare an extensive scheme. In Histon and Isleworth a scheme is being prepared, and will probably include a large part of the Duke of Northumberland's and Lord Jersey's estates. At Twickenham a scheme for 1,880 acres has been approved by owners, and conferences have been held to secure co-operation with Richmond. The preservation of the view from Richmond Hill is one of the objects. The Ham Council has decided to start a scheme of its own if Twickenham's scheme includes a bridge over the Thames near Eel-pie Island, such a bridge being strongly objected to. The Esher and Dittons Council has a committee at work, and important



results are expected. The Maldens and Coombe Council has scheduled the whole of its unbuilt-on area. In Surbiton similar action is foreshadowed. Carshalton thinks of planning 2,500 acres, and successful conferences have been held with Croydon, Sutton and Epsom, a good main road between Croydon and Epsom being badly needed. In Croydon rural district a scheme has been formed for 1,474 acres in Morden and 300 in Mitcham; and Merton is working out a scheme which would include a large part of Morden if amalgamation of the two were allowed.

#### THE MIDLANDS.

Birmingham has obtained leave to prepare two schemes, for 2,320 acres in the south-west, chiefly in Quinton and Harborne, and 1,442 acres in the east; and a third scheme is expected for Erdington, beyond Aston. Oldbury, adjoining Birmingham, scheduled 1,898 acres in Warley, but the Board sanctioned only 1,791, considering the rest needless. North Bromsgrove has got similar leave, its scheme covering 554 acres just outside Birmingham.

Chesterfield, Derbyshire's coal centre, has reached the same stage, and its scheme is extensive.

#### THE NORTH AND NORTH-WEST.

Sheffield is scheduling 4,209 acres, and hopes to begin with about 1,220 in the west, south-west, and north. In Huddersfield a scheme has been practically adopted by a council committee. In Halifax Mr. Whitley, M.P., is giving prizes for the best town-planning schemes by local architects. In Hull the City Engineer's plan covers 670 acres of the north-east district.

In Liverpool it is proposed to schedule 88 acres in the south-east, near the new garden suburb. In Manchester the committee has proposed a scheme for the northern and southern suburbs. Rochdale has received authority to prepare a scheme for 43 acres, and a much larger area is contemplated. Middleton's application has been rejected as out of form, but an amended proposal will no doubt be granted: the scheme covers 300 acres. Nelson has given notice of a scheme covering 83 acres. The Barrow-in-Furness Corporation has adopted three schemes, the acreage being 1,780.

Stockport has a large scheme, providing for 2,300 acres in the south and 2,700 acres outside the borough. Part of the area is in Lancashire. Ellesmere Port, the new town on the Mersey, has given notice of a plan including Hooton Park and large sections of the Wirral and Chester rural districts.

The Wrexham Rural District Council has decided to adopt the Act, and will probably begin with Gresford, where a large colliery is being opened.

#### THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES.

Bournemouth has scheduled 202 acres, and leave to submit a scheme will probably be given this week. In Portsmouth all the land still vacant has been provisionally scheduled.

In Kent, Rochester's application has been rejected. A great part of the area mentioned—and the whole area was small—consisted of Crown lands, to which the Act does not apply.

#### Australian Federal City Competition.

In the July number of the JOURNAL (p. 642) the attention of members was drawn to the unsatisfactory nature of some of the conditions in the

Australian Federal City Competition, and it was mentioned that a deputation from the Council of the Institute had laid their views upon the subject before the High Commissioner of the Australian Commonwealth in London, and that he had undertaken to bring the matter to the notice of his Government. It is understood that this has been done, but so far no notification of any change in the conditions has come to hand.

The Council of the Institute of Architects of New South Wales have issued a circular letter to their members in the following terms:—

September 1911.

SIR,—With reference to the competition for designs for the Federal City, as the Federal Government have refused to amend the conditions of this competition in the matter of the appointment of assessors, and the final decision is in the hands of the Minister alone, in spite of the recommendations made by the Institutes throughout the Commonwealth as well as the Royal Institute in London, my Council has decided to ask the members of this Institute not to take part in the competition unless the conditions are made more satisfactory.—I am, yours faithfully,

ARTHUR WM. ANDERSON, *Hon. Secretary.*

The Competitions Committee of the Royal Institute have had this matter under consideration, and the Council, acting on their recommendation, have published a notice requesting members not to take part in this competition [*see Supplement*].

#### Balliol Chapel.

The Master and Fellows of Balliol College have been tempted by a generous offer to pull down the present chapel and erect in its place an imitation of the building which was removed about the year 1856. Messrs. R. Norman Shaw, R.A., and Basil Champneys, in a letter to *The Times* protesting against the proposal, say: "There is no pretext of want of room or of ruinous conditions, but merely a desire to get rid of a building which offends the taste of the benefactor. By this wanton act of destruction Oxford will lose a valuable specimen of the art of the 19th century, the work of the greatest genius of the Victorian age. Whatever can be said against Butterfield, most architects agree in praising the dignity and originality of his work."

#### The Protection of Ancient Monuments.

In view of the sale of Tattershall Castle his Majesty's Office of Works have issued a letter to county councils calling attention to the provisions of the Ancient Monuments Protection Acts 1882 and 1900, providing for the guardianship of monuments of historic, traditional, or artistic interest. The letter states that the matter is of national importance, and the expense involved in guardianship would in some cases be more fittingly borne nationally than locally. The First Commissioner of Works hopes that county councils will not hesitate to

draw his attention to any monument worthy of protection.

#### Tattershall Castle.

It is announced that Tattershall Castle has been purchased by Lord Curzon, who intervened at the last moment to rescue the building from the risks of further vandalism or demolition. It is said that his lordship contemplates certain works of repair in order to prevent further dilapidation and to preserve the model of a fifteenth-century fortress-mansion. The rifled fireplaces are believed to be in the hands of a London dealer. It is hoped that, if they can be successfully repaired after their recent violent removal, some benefactor will follow up the action of Lord Curzon by restoring them to the Castle.

#### Indian Archaeology: Retention of the Post of Director-General.

Lord Curzon, in the House of Lords last week, raised the question of the abolition of the office of Director-General of Archaeology in India which the Government of India was reported to have in contemplation, and asked the Secretary of State for India what the policy of H.M.'s Government was with regard to the proposal. The Marquis of Crewe, in reply, stated that this was a point upon which the Government did not find themselves in agreement with the recommendation of the Government of India, and that a number of societies of great importance had approached the India Office to urge its retention. He was in general agreement with the view that it was impossible to regard archaeology as in any sense a provincial subject, and he had decided that it was necessary to retain the Central Department for advice, for general supervision, and for the collection of information in connection with archaeology.

#### The Rock Temples of Elephanta.

The Special Correspondent of *The Times* at Bombay sends the following message dated 7th November:—

The intervention of the Director-General of Archaeology was never more urgently needed than in Bombay Harbour now. The King-Emperor is expected to visit the famous Rock Temples of Elephanta, and these have accordingly been taken in hand by a strong-minded Department of Public Works. The chief glory of this deeply impressive relic is—or was—a central hall of many columns opening east and west on courts with lateral shrines. Every part of this—roof, columns, mural sculptures, and floor—was cut from the live rock in the hillside at least a thousand years ago. Time, ably seconded by Portuguese vandalism and the action of the British Government in using the hill above as an emplacement for a particularly heavy gun, had so impaired the temple as to make it insecure. Eight columns had fallen and others were greatly injured. These in recent years were simply, and quite properly, replaced or repaired.

It seems, however, that the æsthetic sense of the Works Department was offended by the contrasts of the result, and it has now been engaged in making the

whole temple as good as new. Broken cornices and mouldings and worn or broken steps have been conscientiously filled in with Portland cement, and the beautiful stonework of the original columns, as well as the repaired ones or the entirely new ones, has disappeared beneath a khaki-coloured wash of cement, cowdung, and water. It is difficult now to distinguish old from new. Only one column in the side chapel remains untouched to show the delicate dark surface of the original stone. Hideous new yellow steps now rise from four sides to the central shrine. The splendid three-headed image of Shiva, which has been described as one of the finest examples of Indian sculpture, and other great mural reliefs are at present unviolated—but their turn may come. In any case, the sombre grandeur of the interior is already destroyed, and with it all the strangely impressive poetry of a monument which seemed almost as old as the solid rock from which it was carved. The temple is ruined.

The provincial archaeological department apparently had some voice in the affair, but responsibility for the outrage lies chiefly with the Works Department. Had Westminster Abbey been whitewashed for the Coronation the vandalism could hardly have been more gross.

#### Egypt Exploration Fund: Excavation of the Osireion.

The chief work of the Egypt Exploration Fund during the coming season will be the continued excavation of the Osireion at Abydos, a great subterranean building connected with the Temple of Seti. Its excavation was begun in 1902-1903 by the Egyptian Research Account, the work being conducted by Miss Margaret Murray and Mrs. Petrie under the general supervision of Professor Petrie.

Miss Murray discovered that the building, at first thought to be the tomb of King Menepthah, the supposed Pharaoh of the Exodus, is in reality a *hypogæum*, or subterranean Temple, probably intended for the performance of the Mysteries of Osiris, identified with the dead King Menepthah, in the Underworld. Its stone walls are covered with well-cut sculpture and hieroglyphs, illustrating the "Book of the Gates," a portion of the Egyptian Scriptures which describes the supposed adventures of the soul in the "Underworld" after death, and certain charms and prayers to protect him (in this case Pharaoh Menepthah) against the assaults of devils. There are also representations of mythological subjects connected with the story of Osiris and the deities connected with his cult.

So far as excavated, the Osireion consists of a broad way descending to a great hall, out of which open a large chamber and a passage or second hall leading in the direction of the Temple of Seti. The manner of junction of the subterranean Osireion with the Seti Temple remains then to be discovered, and this is a most interesting task. It may clear up many obscure mythological references, besides making a considerable addition to our knowledge of Egyptian architecture. If new inscriptions are found, these may, like those already uncovered, add to our knowledge of the funerary ritual. On all accounts, therefore, the excavation of this, one of the most interesting buildings in Egypt, "this unique *hypogæum*," as Professor Petrie calls it, is

a work that should commend itself to the support of all who are interested in Biblical history, in the study of ancient religion, and in ancient knowledge of architecture and engineering.

The work will be carried out by Professor E. Naville, Ph.D., D.C.L., LL.D. [*Hon. Corr. M.*], assisted by Mr. T. E. Peet, M.A. Oxon., late Craven Fellow. Subscriptions and donations for this work are greatly needed and may be sent to Mr. H. A. Grueber, 37 Great Russell Street, W.C.

#### "Old London" at Whitechapel Art Gallery.

The autumn exhibition at the Whitechapel Art Gallery is this year devoted to "Old London," and the educational value of the exhibition is even more notable than usual. The upper gallery is filled with a collection of paintings of old London, including many by Hogarth, Canaletto, and Samuel Scott, which offer to the student of the history and topography of London a rare opportunity. Sadler's Wells and the Green Park in 1760, as depicted by Hogarth, two pictures of the old London Bridge before the destruction of its houses in 1757-58, by Samuel Scott, and David Turner's view of old Blackfriars Bridge and St. Paul's are examples of the many interesting things in this gallery, which presents an almost complete picture of the London of one, two, and three centuries ago. The exhibits in this gallery include a number of old prints and drawings lent from the collections of the R.I.B.A. The exhibition in the lower gallery relates to earlier historical periods. A selection of objects lent from the Guildhall Museum illustrates the life of the inhabitants of London in prehistoric, Roman, and later times, and there are other collections representing mediaeval London and the Tudor and Stuart and later periods. Five large and beautifully constructed models, in illuminated cases, give a vivid idea of old Charing Cross in 1620, old London Bridge in 1620, old Cheapside in 1580, the entrance to the Fleet river, 1550, and old St. Paul's, 1560. Many maps, plans, and prints have been lent by the London County Council and other municipal bodies.

#### The British School at Athens.

At the festival dinner, celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the British School at Athens last Tuesday, the Chairman, Mr. George A. Macmillan, referred to the successful excavations which had formed so important a part of the work of the School, and said that the individual work of the students was shown equally well by their remarkable bibliographical writings. Many of their old students now occupied important posts, and he instanced Mr. Marshall, the Director-General of Archaeology in India. There were, he continued, four main objects for which the School was founded. The first was to promote the study of Greek archaeology in all its branches, and he thought they could

say that that had been amply fulfilled. Secondly, their object was to make it a school of classical study, and though the object was secondary, it was important, and its importance had been recognised by the Committee throughout, and by those who had taken advantage of the School. He was satisfied that the men who had spent their time at the School had found it of the utmost benefit to them in their after work. Thirdly, the School was also a centre from which information could be obtained, and where books could be consulted by British travellers in Greece; and there, again, he thought they had a very good record to show. Fourthly, the object was to form a library consisting of archaeological and other suitable books, including maps, plans, and photographs, and that object had been continually kept in view, and had been attended with much success. The library was one of which the School might be proud, and which added enormously to its usefulness.

#### The Statutory Examinations: Mr. Lacy Ridge's Retirement from the Examining Body.

Mr. Lacy W. Ridge [*F.*], who has been a member of the Statutory Board of Examiners for twenty-seven years, for the last eleven years acting as Chairman, has recently retired from the position. The Council, at their Meeting of the 23rd October, passed a resolution expressing their thanks to Mr. Ridge for the invaluable services he has rendered to the Institute generally, and in particular in connection with the work of the Statutory Examinations.

#### Mr. Henderson's Restorations of the Temple of Diana at Ephesus.

Mr. Arthur E. Henderson, R.B.A., F.S.A., has presented to the Institute his two fine drawings illustrating his ideas for the restoration of the Temple of Artemis (Diana) at Ephesus—the Croesus structure (7th century B.C.) and the Hellenistic (4th century B.C.). Mr. Henderson, it will be remembered, acted as architect to the excavations at Ephesus directed by Mr. D. G. Hogarth for the Trustees of the British Museum in 1904-05, and described the results of the work in an interesting Paper read before the Institute and published with numerous illustrations in the *JOURNAL* of the 5th December 1908. The drawings, which have been made to the same scale from a comparison of two different periods of Ionian architecture, are at present on exhibition, the Archaic Temple at the Aberdeen Art Society, and the Hellenistic at the Royal Society of British Artists. Reproductions of the drawings to a smaller scale appeared in *The Builder* for 24th November 1908 and 4th August 1911.

#### Architects' Benevolent Society.

The following letter has been addressed by the President, Mr. Leonard Stokes, to all practising architects in the United Kingdom:—



DEAR SIR,—In this year of many rejoicings and celebrations I should like to plead for your interest on behalf of a cause which deserves the support of every architect—I refer to the Architects' Benevolent Society, which has now been established for sixty-one years. During that period it has been the only organisation specially devoted to the needs of our poorer brethren who, through no fault of their own, have fallen on evil days. It has, further, in many hundreds of instances relieved the immediate distress of the widow or orphan left entirely unprovided for, and it has awarded pensions to the aged and deserving.

I regret to say, however, that although the philanthropic work of the Society must have general sympathy, the support which it has received has been far from adequate. At the present time the percentage of practising architects who contribute to its funds is very small. As President of the Society I have been able to observe how useful and necessary are its labours, and I shall welcome and gratefully acknowledge any contribution which you may send to me. It is particularly desired to increase the list of annual subscribers, so as to place the income of the Society on a firm financial basis. Hoping therefore to hear from you on the subject, I remain, yours very truly,

LEONARD STOKES.

#### Modern French Sculpture.

At the next General Meeting of the Institute, to be held Monday 20th November, Mr. H. H. Statham [F.] will read a Paper on Modern French Sculpture, to be illustrated by over a hundred slides specially prepared for the occasion.

#### Honours and Appointments.

Sir GEORGE FRAMPTON, R.A. [*Hon. A.*], has been elected President of the Royal Society of British Sculptors.

Mr. FRANK WILLS [F.], a past President of the Bristol Society of Architects, has been elected Lord Mayor of Bristol.

#### Obituary.

WM. FORREST SALMON [*Fellow*, elected 1876], senior partner of the firm of Messrs. Salmon & Son & Gillespie [FF.], of Glasgow, died at his residence, "Rowantreehill," Kilmacolin, on the 7th October, aged 67. His father, the late Bailie James Salmon [F.], was born in Glasgow in 1805 and commenced practising as an architect in that city at an early age. W. F. Salmon was born in Glasgow in 1813, became a partner with his father, and was an original member of the Glasgow Institute of Architects, his father being the first President. W. F. Salmon was for some time in London in the office of Sir Gilbert Scott and executed some of the working drawings for Glasgow University. In association with his father, he carried out Woodilee Asylum for the Glasgow Parish Council which his firm won

in competition, and laid out Dennistoun Estate, changing it from a collection of derelict mansions to a busy but well-planned suburb. His professional practice was an unusually varied one, schools, infirmaries, asylums, gaols, churches, workshops, mansions, hotels, institutions, and estate work. He delighted in Continental travel, especially in Italy, and in his first journey there he took with him Mr. Axel Haig, who, as a result, became an etcher and a life-long friend. His principal interest outside his profession was in the Glasgow School of Art, of which he was a governor for twenty years, and latterly for many years a Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the School Committee. He used every effort towards raising the status of the staff, and the high place which this school now has in this respect is largely due to his constant endeavours. His dearest friends were fellow-artists, Wm. Leiper, Wm. McTaggart, Scott Morton, Tom Hunt, Haig, and he was always most sympathetic towards the younger artists. Derwent Wood got his first commission from him. Johann Keller, Albert Hodge, G. G. Anderson, and many other young sculptors and painters owe much to his appreciative interest in their art. His own water-colours show an eye keenly alive to the spirit and beauty of nature. His work never became stereotyped, and several of the most up-to-date office buildings in Glasgow were planned by him. In his architectural designs there is shown the direct influence of Italian Renaissance, not the influence of books or of fashion, but a true recognition of the spirit which animated the masters of that school. He was President of the Glasgow Institute of Architects from 1892 to 1894, and served during that period as a member of the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

JOHN DAVIDSON, *Licentiate*, of Dumfries, who died on 1st September, had been for over twenty-two years clerk of works to the Crichton Royal Institution. Besides extensive additions to the two original houses, he was responsible for the erection of the new buildings which include the Crichton Memorial Church (a fine building, of quite cathedral proportions, finished in 1897), the farm-stead with the large annexe for working patients, the Male and Female Hospitals, the artesian well, providing water for the whole establishment, and the electric light station, containing an installation which on its completion under Mr. Davidson's superintendence was pronounced by Professor Bottomley one of the finest for private purposes in the United Kingdom. He was the author of several Papers in the local Press on such subjects as "Church Architecture," "Baronial Castles of Scotland in the Middle Ages," "The Ecclesiastical Architecture of Great Britain from the Roman period to the Nineteenth Century," "Early Christian Art," "Gothic Architecture," and "Polychromatic Decoration." As a mark of respect for his memory the Directors of the Crichton Institution have re-

solved to place a memorial to him in the Crichton Church.

HARRY EDWARD EAST, *Licentiate*, whose death at the age of 31 is reported from Montreal, received his early training in the office of Mr. T. M. Cappon [F.], of Dundee. Afterwards he went to London and entered the Architects' Department of the London County Council. In a competition in connection with a housing scheme in Bermondsey involving an expenditure of between £10,000 and £50,000 the plans of Mr. East were successful. He was for a time in practice in London, but early this year went to Canada, where he latterly occupied an important post in the service of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

#### THE NINTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ARCHITECTS, ROME, 1911.

The Ninth International Congress of Architects which was held in Rome from the 2nd to the 10th of October passed off very successfully, although the attendance was not up to the average. This latter circumstance was probably due to the fear of cholera, which was known to prevail in many parts of Italy. The Comité Permanent was strongly represented, the venerable President, M. Daumet, attending all its meetings. Notwithstanding the numerous fascinations of the Eternal City, the Congress meetings were well attended, and several subjects of considerable importance were discussed. The Exhibitions were all of great interest, though somewhat too scattered. In the Fine Arts Exhibition in the Valle Giulia, the English exhibit was by common consent far and away the best, and reflected the greatest credit on Sir Isidore Spielmann and his assistants who arranged it. Mention should be made of the wonderful model of Imperial Rome in the 4th century A.D., by M. P. Bigot, which was on view in one of the Halls of the Baths of Diocletian. Some of the visits were of quite exceptional interest, notably that to the Villa Albani, which Prince Torlonia very kindly threw open with its garden to the members of the Congress, who thus enjoyed the rare treat of seeing its priceless treasures. Another interesting visit was to the Villa Vasceli on the Janiculum, whence can be obtained one of the finest bird's-eye views of Rome. Tivoli and the Villa d'Este were also visited, and Dr. Ashby gave the members the benefit of his special knowledge of Hadrian's Villa on the spot. The Committee of Organisation entertained the Comité Permanent and the foreign Government delegates at dinner at the Grand Hotel, and Signor Cannizzaro, the Vice-President, was indefatigable in his endeavours to make the visit to Rome interesting and agreeable to all the members. The thanks of everyone are due to him and to the energetic Secretary,

Signor Bisi. The final dinner was held at the Hôtel Excelsior, where the majority of the members, except a few who went on to Venice, separated in the hope of meeting again in 1914 at St. Petersburg, where, on the motion of the Comte de Suzor, the venue of the next Congress has been fixed by the Permanent Committee. The British members are indebted to Mr. John W. Simpson for the excellent arrangements made for their comfort on the journey to and during their stay at Rome.

JOHN SLATER [F.].

No official figures as to the number of subscribing members of the Congress are as yet available, but it is understood that members of all classes present did not exceed five hundred. Of the foreign sections the British headed the list with sixty-six members, the Government being represented by Sir Henry Tanner, C.B., I.S.O. [F.], and the Royal Institute by Mr. Leonard Stokes, *President R.I.B.A.* Mr. John Belcher, R.A., Vice-President of the Comité Permanent, and Mr. John W. Simpson, *Vice-President R.I.B.A.*, Secretary of the Comité Permanent. Other members of the Institute present included Messrs. J. T. Baillie [F.], F. S. Baker [F.], Lionel Barrett [A.], John Wm. Cockrill [A.], T. E. Collett [F.], James Davidson [F.], Colonel G. A. H. Dickson, M.V.O. [F.], F. E. Pearce Edwards [F.], Wm. Flockhart [F.], Henry L. Florence [F.], Sidney K. Greenslade [A.], Ewen Harper [F.], Arthur Hill [F.], James Jerman [F.], Llewellyn Kitchen [F.], G. E. Gordon Leith [A.], C. E. Mallows [F.], T. P. Marwick [A.], Percy Morris [A.], Albert E. Murray [F.], John Murray [F.], A. Southcombe Parker [F.], Harbottle Reed [F.], W. E. Riley [F.], representing the London County Council, R. D. Sandilands [F.], John Slater [F.], Henry Tanner [F.], Arnold Thornely [F.], Percy B. Tubbs [F.], A. Vassallo [F.], W. Fleming Wilkie [F.], John B. Wilson [F.], Thomas Charles Yates [A.], Alcide Chaussé and J. C. Prestwick, *Licentiate*s.

A translation of the Programme of the Congress, with particulars of the various meetings, visits, receptions, and other functions, has already appeared in these pages [JOURNAL, Vol. xviii., pp. 688-691].

A translation of the official record of the Resolutions adopted by the Congress here follows:—

Subject I.—Reinforced Concrete: (1) Mode of Employment in Different Countries; (2) Its Application in Architecture from the Technical and Decorative Points of View.—The Congress agreed not to pass any resolution on this subject.

Subject II.—Rights and Duties of the Architect towards his Client.

First Resolution: The Congress resolves that the architect may not under any pretext whatsoever accept a fee from any but his employer.

Second Resolution: The Congress decides to refer

the further consideration of this question to the Permanent Committee.

Subject III.—Technical and Artistic Training; The Architect's Diploma; Exercise of the Profession outside the Architect's own country.—The Congress passed the following Resolutions:

(1) That the right to bear the title of Architect shall be reserved for those who have obtained such right as the result of a regular examination, passed after a course of artistic, technical, and scientific study.

(2) That the title of Architect shall be accorded the same rank as that of Master of Arts, Doctor of Science, Doctor of Medicine, &c.

(3) That the Schools of Architecture may be allowed to differ from one another, according to countries, while preserving the same general regulations.

(4) That admission to the Schools of Architecture shall be made conditional on the candidates' previous acquisition in other educational institutions of a general culture of equivalent standard to that required for the other liberal professions.

Subject IV.—Considerations as to Modern Architecture.—The Congress agreed not to put this subject to the vote.

Subject V.—The Execution of Architectural Works for the State or for other Public Bodies.

The Congress confirms the Resolution passed in London in 1906, and affirms that it is necessary to observe very carefully the distinction between the practice of the art of the architect and the work of the engineer.

The Congress further resolves

(1) That works of architecture undertaken for the State, Municipalities, or other public bodies should only be entrusted to qualified architects after competition, open or otherwise.

(2) That, with the object of ensuring that all monumental buildings shall satisfy every essential of art, the designs, which must be prepared by qualified architects, shall in every case be submitted for approval before execution to some such institution as the Académie des Beaux-Arts, or to committees composed mainly of architects.

Subject VI.—The Desirability of a Dictionary of Comparative Terms in Architecture.

The Congress recognises the utility of a dictionary of comparative terms in architecture, and resolves that the Permanent International Committee of Architects shall organise an International Commission for the purpose of continuing the work begun, and that it shall present the results of its labours at the next Congress.

The Congress is of opinion that the terms should be illustrated by drawings and diagrams in order that the details may be accurately defined.

Subject VII.—The Foreign Academies in Rome; Their History; Studies and Works of the Students;

Influence exercised by these Schools in the countries they represent.—No resolution passed.

Additional Subject.—Artistic Copyright.

The Ninth International Congress of Architects assembled at Rome in 1911: Recalling on the one hand the resolutions passed during the last thirty-four years at the International Congresses of Architects and of Artistic Copyright, and likewise at the International Congresses of the International Literary and Artistic Association, and notably at those of Madrid 1904, London 1906, and Vienna 1908:

Recalling on the other hand the progress accomplished during the last thirty-four years in European legislation for the protection of architectural works of art, as, for instance, the Spanish Act of 1879, the French Act of 1902, the German Act of 1907, and the Convention of Berne in 1886, amended by the Act of Paris in 1895, and by the Berlin Conference of 1908:

Recalling, finally, the Resolution passed at the International Congress of Art held at Rome in April 1911, which proclaimed the legality of a uniform protection for all works of art, including architecture, during the lifetime of the author and for at least fifty years after his death:

Affirms:

- (1) That architectural work must be protected in all its artistic aspects.
- (2) That architectural designs, comprising designs of exteriors and interiors, the plans, sections, elevations, and decorative details, constitute the primary expression of the artist's conception and of the architectural work.
- (3) That the building is only a reproduction, on the soil, of the architect's design.

The Congress also affirms the Resolution that the architectural work and all the designs of which it consists, either singly or as a whole, as well as the building and all other reproductions, shall be protected during the lifetime of the author and for a minimum period of fifty years after his death, in the same manner as all artistic work of painters, sculptors, and others.

#### *Additional Resolutions.*

The Congress respectfully invites the Government of Italy to take the initiative in forming an International Commission consisting of the representatives of countries subject to earthquakes, with the object:

(a) Of collecting all studies and works which have been or are being written not only concerning earthquakes, but also concerning the stability of buildings in these countries.

(b) Of elaborating general and local regulations for buildings to be erected in those countries.

(c) Of charging the foreign representatives of these countries who are present at this Congress to request their respective Governments to

establish seismic stations wherever these have not yet been provided.

(d) Of requesting that the seismic commissions may consist not only of learned geologists, but also of architects and engineers, so that by their labours these commissions may assist in providing a technical, economic, and artistic solution of the question of the stability of buildings in seismic countries.

At the Institute Council Meeting of the 23rd October allusion was made by the President to the services rendered by Mr. John W. Simpson in connection with the organisation of the English party that visited the Congress, and it was unanimously resolved that the Secretary be directed to express to Mr. Simpson the appreciation of the Council and their cordial thanks to him for his services in this regard.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### Architects' Responsibilities.

*To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.,—*

SIR,—Referring to Mr. Douglas Wood's letter in the September issue of the JOURNAL, until some legal remedy can be found for this really serious state of affairs, can you tell me whether there is any form of insurance against such risks as we must run, however careful and conscientious we may be?

Perhaps some member of the profession can give a useful hint from his own experience.

W. CHAS. WAYMOUTH [F.].

The letters from Mr. Douglas Wood [A.] and others which have appeared in the JOURNAL under the above heading, with special reference to the case of the Leicester Guardians v. J. E. Trollope, are likely to cause a misapprehension, and I have been asked to make a few comments on the case.

In the first place, I do not understand the suggestion that architects can be held responsible for all time. The Statute of Limitations applies, I believe, to everybody, including architects, and by this the liabilities, whatever they may be, are limited to six years.

If I correctly understand Mr. Wood's letter, he appears to imply that the R.I.B.A. form of contract was used in the Leicester case. This is not so. In the R.I.B.A. form (clause 30) it is stated that "No certificate of the architect shall, of itself, be considered conclusive evidence as to the sufficiency of any work or materials to which it relates so as to relieve the contractor from his liability to execute the works in all respects in accordance with the terms, etc., of this agreement."

In the Leicester contract the corresponding clause expressly relieved the contractors from liability after the final certificate was given and

after nine months from possession having been taken over. This in essence is the opposite to the R.I.B.A. clause 30, and I may add there is no reference in this clause 30 to "final certificate" at all.

The Judge's ruling was not a general one, but naturally dealt with the particular contract before him, and if employers elect to put in such a clause about the final certificate as that in the Leicester case certain consequences follow.

With the Institute's clause I know of nothing that will not "allow the employer to come down on the builder for defective workmanship or materials, even if discovered after the (last) certificate has been granted."

EDWIN T. HALL [F.].

### The Revised Examination Syllabus.

*To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.,—*

SIR.—That changes must necessarily be made in the Examination Syllabus from time to time will be admitted by all, but that they should follow too rapidly upon one another causes a feeling of instability, especially if the alterations made are open to serious criticism. This is, I fear, the case with those which are now announced. In some respects they are most excellent, but in others they seem to me to be ill-conceived, and I trust that a few words of comment will be taken in the spirit in which they are offered; just as Mr. Blomfield's references to the "crammer" in his introductory remarks upon the scheme, published in the last issue of the JOURNAL, are, of course, to be taken as having no reference to the private architectural tutor, much of whose life is spent in combating the desire of all the less competent of his pupils to "cram."

To begin with the Preliminary Examination, which it is not proposed to alter, it may be suggested that changes are more needed in that than in the later examinations. At present, it neither provides a test for the candidate having been given a gentleman's education (unfortunately he cannot be tested in gentlemanliness!), nor for his having any real capacity for architecture. It is such as a fairly well grounded lad from a public elementary school should pass with ease at the age of fifteen, and needs stiffening considerably, by demanding a higher standard of proficiency, especially in draftsmanship, and by adding the compulsion to take a second language, possibly with the alternative of a paper on higher algebra and trigonometry, much like that now put forward as one of the alternatives in the Intermediate. At present, there is too much encouragement for the hopelessly unfit to enter upon their initiatory training, and for parents to remove their sons from school at too early an age.

With regard to the Intermediate, the proposed changes possess both good and bad points, and unfortunately the bad predominate. The reason is

that too much is being attempted, there being a conflict between recognising that candidates may enter at nineteen, when they are quite beginners who need to be led on by easy stages, and desiring them to advance far and fast. Most of them are too young to be called upon to measure up complete buildings for their Testimonies of Study. The demand for such work will discourage. It is also questionable whether the old Gothic sheets should be done away with, a knowledge of the bases of Gothic work being quite as essential as a knowledge of the Orders; but it might well be made compulsory for these Gothic sheets to be measured, and for the rough sketches made on the spot to be submitted with them. The constructional sheets cry aloud for revision. Their preparation necessarily compels students to acquire a knowledge of antiquated, and in one respect obsolete, methods. No alteration in them is suggested in the Revised Syllabus!

In the Examination, the idea of setting certain alternative papers, thereby encouraging specialisation, is excellent, provided that the main object of an "Intermediate," or first technical examination, is not lost sight of—to compel all architectural neophytes to master the elements of their calling, as a child masters his alphabet and the multiplication table. But I cannot for the life of me see any reason for the suggested paper on mathematics and mechanics, after the Preliminary has been passed. In all my experience I have never known an architect as such to need algebra beyond quadratic equations, nor trigonometry at all; and so far as statics and dynamics are concerned, all that is essential is necessarily included under the heading of Stresses and Strains. If an alternative is required, it had far better consist in the elements of quantity surveying and the preparation and settlement of builders' accounts—subjects which are of the utmost importance to the great majority of practising architects, but education in which is now often wholly neglected, with lamentable after-results. Geometry and perspective should, I think, be compulsory subjects.

Of all the mistakes made in preparing the new syllabus, the most flagrant, it seems to me, is that of the Examining Board taking upon itself some of the functions of a teaching body by setting subjects for design from time to time, while the alternative machinery for their examination (either by the Council of one of the Allied Societies, or by a Committee of the Board of Education) is hopelessly unworkable, if any uniformity of standard is to be reached. It would be far better to leave the Testimonies of Study as they are, but to insist that the sheet of constructive masonry should be either measured or designed (not merely copied), and that the roof be in accordance with modern practice, reinforced concrete being permitted to be used. If any serious alteration be thought desirable, it might be suggested—as,

in fact, it already has been by Mr. Purchon—that it should take the form of requiring more measured work than at present, instead of relegating measuring entirely to the "Intermediate"; but, to my thinking, it would be deterrent to add largely to the present demands.

It may possibly have escaped the notice of those who have drawn up the new syllabus that those students who take the "Intermediate" under the old conditions and the "Final" under the new, will not necessarily be compelled to do any measured work at all.

The idea of the studied thesis is most excellent, for it compels high specialisation in some one direction by every candidate, while insisting only upon moderate acquirements all round. All that is needed to meet all cases is to entitle the second alternative "*Science and Practice as applied to Building*," so as to put those who intend to devote themselves to the practical side of the profession, such as the conduct of arbitrations or the management of building estates, on an equality, as regards the possibility of qualifying for admission into the Institute, with their more artistic brethren.

Ending, as I commenced, with a reference to Mr. Blomfield's "Note" in the last issue of the JOURNAL, I may say that I disagree with him profoundly in one respect. After a very long and intimate experience of aspirant architects, I have come to the conclusion that their quality is steadily and rapidly rising, and that probably never, since the great days when English Gothic architecture was supreme in beauty above all the styles of building then in vogue, have there been more young architects who are artistic to their finger-tips (and students, too, in the best sense of the word) than there are to-day.—Yours faithfully,

G. A. T. MIDDLETON [A.].

#### Oxford Cathedral and the Civil War.

From FRANCIS BOND [Hon.A.]—

In collecting matter for a new edition of *English Cathedrals Illustrated*, the following information was sent me by Mr. William Francis, the senior verger of the cathedral. I give it in his own words:—"In Dean Liddell's time, I once had occasion to go up to the space 'tween the vaulting of the Choir and the lead roof in order that a London architect might examine how the stone pendants were keyed in. We went armed with tapers as there is only a very feeble light there. On striking a match we found to our dismay that there was a great deal of hay stored there, especially in the pockets of the vault; we had to exercise the greatest caution. I brought a sample down with me and took it to the Dean. He at first said it was impossible; he could not see the use of hay being there; then he suddenly remembered a tradition that in the time when Charles the First was shut up in Oxford, a great deal of hay was stored in Christ Church some-



where for the King's use. He asked Mr. Druce, the Oxford botanist, to give his opinion on it, and he said it was a coarse kind of hay which no longer grew in these days, and in all probability was a stock laid in by the freemen of Oxford from Port Meadow, for King Charles's use. The Dean had it all cleared away: but three sample bags were preserved as relics, one being given to the British Museum, one to the Oxford Museum, one to the Treasury, Christ Church. That is a nice little romance I hand on to you; only two people are living now that figured in it, Mr. Druce and myself."

### MINUTES. I.

At the First General Meeting (Ordinary) of the Session 1911-12, held Monday, 6th November 1911, at 8.30 p.m.—Present: Mr Leonard Stokes, *President*, in the Chair; 37 Fellows (including 16 members of the Council), 41 Associates (including 3 members of the Council), 2 Hon. Associates, 34 Licentiates, and several visitors: the Minutes of the General Meeting, held 26th June 1911, having been already published in the JOURNAL, were taken as read and signed as correct.

The following Members and Licentiates attending for the first time since their election were formally admitted by the President—viz.: Leonard Keir Hett and Albert Turnbull, *Associates*; Francis John Carlck, Edward Ashby Smith, Albert Edgar Cockeell, Mansfield Price, William Sheen, Ashley Scarlett Kilby, George Scott Miles, Harry Gordon, Henry Spencer Benison, William Edward Pinkerton, Edmund John Ward, Arthur Fred Collins Bentley, Thomas Henry Birchell Scott, Henry Holmes Dawson, Frederick John Rayner, William Henry Bailey, *Licentiates*.

The following candidates, being found eligible and qualified according to the Charter and By-laws, were nominated for election—viz.: As FELLOWS: Harry Barnes [A. 1894], West Hartlepool; Herbert William Bird [A. 1897], Hong Kong, China; Joseph Spain [A. 1895], Sunderland; Robert Douglas Wells [A. 1901]; Horace White [A. 1903]. As ASSOCIATES\*: Maurice Spencer Rowe Adams [S. 1909]; Laurence Mortimer Angus [S. 1910]; Edward Ernest Barks [*Special Examination*]; Paget Logan Baxter [*Special Examination*]; Hubert Joseph Benians [S. 1908]; William Thomas Benslyn [S. 1905], Birmingham; Richard Henry Percy Bevis [S. 1906], Southsea; Arthur George Blackford [S. 1907]; Kenneth Stephen Broad [S. 1909]; Baldwin Brown [S. 1903], Bradford; Murray Brown [S. 1910]; John Edgar Bullock [S. 1907]; Leonard Harris Clarke [S. 1910], Harrogate; Joseph Charles Gladstone Davies [S. 1909], Morriston, Glamorgan; William Frederick Davies [S. 1907], Liverpool; Charles Davis [*Special Examination*]; Charles Alva Edeson [*Special Examination*], Derby; Arthur Frederic Evans [S. 1908], Liverpool; Leonard John Finning [S. 1907], Pinhoe, Exeter; Wilfred Thomas Garbutt [S. 1909], Bradford; Wilfred Stuart Gorrington [S. 1907], Seaford; Bernard Malcolm Goodwin [S. 1906]; Guy Donne Gordon Hake [S. 1909]; Charles Alfred Harding [S. 1911], Glasgow; Geoffrey Wyville Home [S. 1909]; Thomas Cecil

Howitt [S. 1908], Nottingham; John Norman Keaseley [S. 1904]; Frank Wardel Knight [S. 1909]; Wilfrid Lawson [S. 1909], Newcastle-on-Tyne; Adrien Denis Leroy [S. 1909]; Philip Norman Logan [S. 1908], Bristol; Charles William Long [S. 1908]; Moritz Richard Martin [S. 1905]; Frederick Edward Mennie [S. 1907]; Harold Ian Merriman [*Special Examination*]; Alfred Hugh Mottram [S. 1910]; George Burgoyne Owen [S. 1909], Sydney, N.S.W.; Thomas Abel Parker [S. 1908], Cole, Lancs; John Wilson Paterson [S. 1909], Edinburgh; Ivor Mervyn Pritchard [S. 1909]; Hayward Lewis Samson [S. 1904]; Charles Malcolm Swannell [S. 1908]; Francis Harold Swindells [S. 1909]; Michael John Tapper [S. 1908]; Harold Thornton [S. 1905], Dewsbury; Arthur George Warnham Tickle [S. 1906]; Harry West [S. 1906]; Johannes Thorwaldson Westbye [*Special Examination*], Christiania, Norway; Arthur Eli Mitchell Whitehouse [S. 1907]; Norman Wigzell [S. 1908], Sunderland; Llewellyn Ebenezer Williams [S. 1909]; Allen Woodward Wilson [S. 1903], Peterborough; Cecil Reynolds Winter [S. 1907], Bournemouth; Harry Wormald [S. 1904], Wakefield; Christopher Wright [S. 1907]; Allan Murray Campbell Young [S. 1905]. As HON. ASSOCIATES: Walter Crane, R.W.S., Commendatore Royal Crown of Italy; John Hubert Marshall, M.A. (Cantab.), Companion of the Indian Empire, Director-General of Archaeology in India, Simla, India. As LICENTIATES: Cyril Eyres Ainley, Manchester; John Arabian; Richard James Archibald, Middlesbrough; Charles William Bell, Sunderland; Noel Franklin Bellamy, St. Austell; Walter Herbert Bridges Skigness; John Brown, Stranraer, N.B.; Bertie Cooper; Alfred Herbert Coyle, Baroda, India; George Henry Davies, Pontypridd; William Allan Dew, Hyde, Cheshire; Alexander Ellis Diack, Aberdeen; Cyril Hamilton Dyer, Bloemfontein; James Gardner Garble, Belfast; Tom Grazebrook, Stourbridge; Charles Ingleby Greechew, Newcastle; Charles Henry Grieg, Edinburgh; Watson Hall, Ondtshoorn, South Africa; Ernest William Hilton, Altrincham; Ledger Holdsworth, Wakefield; George William Curzon Lane, York; Vincent Alexander Lawson, Stroud; Frederick George Ivall Legg; John Martin Lewis, Madras, India; James Lowson, Aberdeen; Donald Macdonald, Dingwall; John Francis McHon, Dundalk; Herbert Alton Magoon, Alberta, Canada; Thomas Malvern, Chetnam; William Thomas Margetts; Robert Thomas Miller; Bernard Cuddon Palmer, Lewes; Ernest Pawley; Peter Reid, Kirkcaldy; William H. Scott, Cardiff; Stanley Selwyn, Eastbourne; William George Shipwright; Henry Arthur Sisley, Manchester; Charles Bouton Smith; Charles H. Spark, Sydney, N.S.W.; Arthur William Stabler, Durham; Joseph Hunt Stanford, Toronto; Walter Steer, Brighton; Samuel Taylor, Burnley; Herbert Townley, Manchester; George James Morris Viner; Frank Ward, Edmonton, Alberta; Joseph Dixon White, Bootham, York; Absalom Reade Wood, Burslem.

The President having delivered the OPENING ADDRESS of the Session, a vote of thanks, proposed by Sir Robert Hunter, C.B., and seconded by Mr. Irving K. Pond, President of the American Institute of Architects, was passed to him by acclamation.

The meeting separated at 9.30.

**Erratum**, JOURNAL Supplement, 21st October.—In the List of Donations to the Library, p. 145, "The Petit Trianon, Versailles," should have been entered as presented by Mr. John Wilson, the joint author with Mr. Arnott.

\* All the applicants for Associateship passed the Qualifying Examination in June last.

